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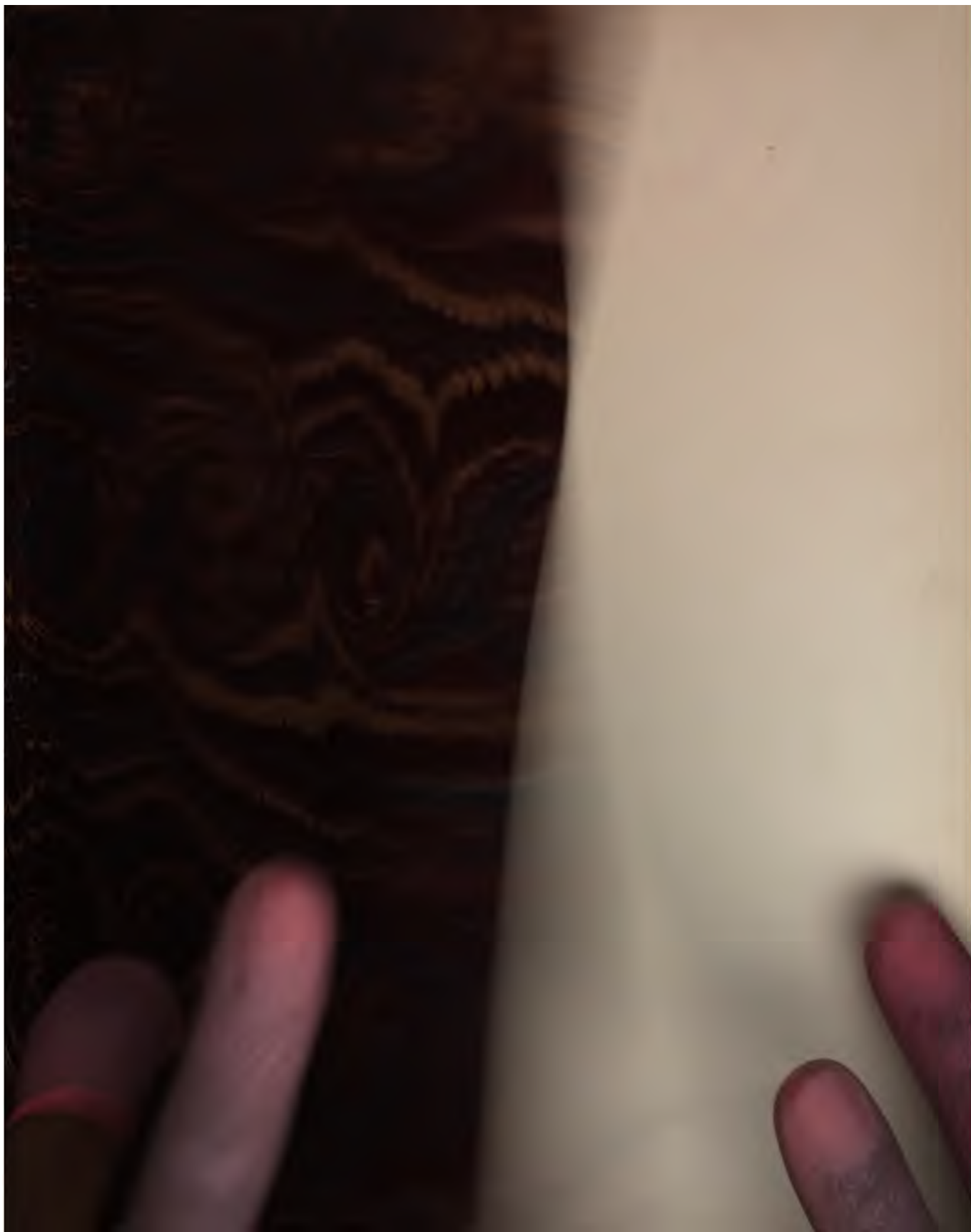
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Yours faithfully
Joseph L. Lee.

The Family of Leete :
WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE GENEALOGY
OF
JOSEPH LEETE, ESQ., F.S.S.,
CHEVALIER DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR,
SOUTH NORWOOD, SURREY.

COLLECTED BY THE LATE
CHARLES BRIDGER, ESQ., F.R.H.S.

AND EDITED BY
J. J. m **CORBET ANDERSON.**



MDCCCLXXXI.

(Printed for Private Circulation.)

Arch. Bodl. A.
IV. 27.

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IN GRATEFUL

Memory of

MY EXCELLENT FRIEND, THE LEARNED COMPILER OF
THESE RECORDS,

MR. CHARLES BRIDGER,

WHO DIED ON THE 27TH OF MAY, 1879.

He was for many years the Friend and able
Assistant of Stephen Tucker, Esq., Somerset Herald,
College of Arms, London.

Explanatory Letter.

EVERSDEN,
SOUTH NORWOOD PARK, S.E.,
SURREY.
5th September, 1881.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

In years to come, when you will be inclined to look more closely than now into the following record relating to your genealogy, you would, if left in ignorance, inquire with a natural wonder, how it came to pass that your father was able to place in your hands this small volume, crowded with facts concerning your ancestry, and bristling, from beginning to end, with the oft-reiterated name of Leete.

In anticipation of such curiosity, I will endeavour to relate the particular circumstances which led to the collection of these details of our family history.

You will hardly need to be reminded that I was born, in 1831, at Royston, situated on the borders of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, where our family have resided since the year 1768, the date at which my great-grandfather, Robert, of Eversden, married and settled in the busy little market town of Royston.

My father had numerous brothers and sisters, and among them two named Susan and Elizabeth, who had left Royston in early life, and had resided for many years in London. Susan was married to a French gentleman named Constant Champion, who carried on in London the business of an export merchant. The other sister, Elizabeth, was married to a gentleman named

George French Flowers, Mus. Doc., Oxon. He was a brother of the well-known barrister-at-law, Frederick Flowers, Esquire, now magistrate at Bow Street Police Court.

It was at the instigation of my aunts that, at the age of fifteen, I left my country home for the great and bewildering Metropolis.

My uncle Champion took me into his City office, where he initiated me into the working of his business with the Continent. When the duties of the day were over, I frequently visited the house of my uncle, Dr. Flowers, in Keppel Street, Russell Square.

Here I formed the acquaintance of a gentleman named Charles Bridger, who was a constant visitor at my uncle's house. I was well aware that Mr. Bridger was engaged in antiquarian pursuits, and that he devoted his time more especially to the study of Heraldry. I must confess, however, that during these early years of my London life his favourite occupation did not excite my sympathy or interest. My own mind was fully absorbed by the consideration of how I could quickly create for myself a position in the commercial world; and when I had reached the age of twenty, this desire was intensified by my having made the acquaintance of your dear mother. Miss Harriet Whitaker was at the time taking lessons in singing of Dr. Flowers. Her brilliant voice, great accomplishments, and amiability of character were the general theme of praise on the part of all my uncle's circle of friends. She did not, however, possess the needful knowledge of Italian to sing with effect in that language. A Professor was therefore engaged, who gave her weekly lessons, but her progress, with this limited amount of instruction, seemed tediously slow. It chanced that I had recently been studying the language, and had attained considerable proficiency therein. What could be more natural than the suggestion that I should assist Miss Whitaker in the study of Italian?

The work was speedily commenced, and afterwards pursued with ardour. We studied the grammar together, wrote books full of exercises, read Silvio Pellico, and the comedies of Alberto Nota ; in short, went perseveringly through all the laborious work of learning a foreign tongue. Nor was Italian our only study. It was soon seen that the singing of even one piece like "Robert, toi que j'aime," could not be done satisfactorily without a correct knowledge of French.

To the study of Italian was now added that of French. The learning of the two languages was carried on in the most cheerful but determined manner during many months of the memorable year 1851.

But why this digression ? you will say. What has Miss Whitaker's learning of Italian and French to do with Heraldry or the Leete genealogy ? Well, simply this : Your dear mother and I, while engaged in our work, *found that we had fallen in love*. This is not the place to tell the whole story, and you must be thankful if, in such a record as this, you are allowed to have a solitary glimpse of the romantic. The sequel, happily for you, is well known ; and you will also remember all your life through, under what joyously auspicious circumstances your parents have recently celebrated their Silver Wedding (15th May, 1881).

When you have looked into the long, dry chronicle of births, marriages and deaths, varied by records of the disposal of deceased men's property and other such items of information, you will turn back gladly to this page. You will thank me then for having made a digression which has prompted the wish that it were possible to enliven a genealogical record with narrations of this kind. How little do we know of the hopes and fears, the early struggles, the vicissitudes of fortune, the defeats and the victories experienced by our ancestors whose names are recorded here !

But to return to our story.

The ardent Heraldist had meanwhile left our circle, and I saw no more of him for long years. I had not forgotten, however, that he mentioned he had seen at the British Museum a record concerning the pedigree and arms of the Leete family. I also remembered that he spoke of the name of Leete as a pretty one for a monosyllable. You see, my dear children, even such a fancy as this, expressed by a man of Mr. Bridger's attainments, left its little flattering impress on my mind.

The early years of my married life had passed over; you, my dear children were all born, and the commercial establishment of Leete and Baillon had weathered the storms which beat upon new enterprises, when, for the first time since I had lost sight of Mr. Bridger, there arose in my mind a desire to make search at the British Museum for the records spoken of in early years by my former friend. This was in the year 1864.

Having procured a reader's ticket, I repaired to the great Reading-room of our National Museum. The first ancient and portly tome which I asked for had just been placed in my hands, and I was about to try to decipher its curiously written contents, when, looking around to see what other readers were near me, I espied, in the next compartment, my long-lost acquaintance, Mr. Charles Bridger. Judge of our mutual surprise at meeting at a place to which I had been drawn by the remembrance of what I had heard from his lips so many years before! My mission to such an uncommercial locality was quickly explained, and knowing that my time was too precious to be given up to such researches as would be needful, I readily availed myself of Mr. Bridger's offer of services to bring to light the desired facts concerning my genealogy, the arms that had in former days been borne by the Leete family, etc., etc.

Little did I think, when I gave my friend "open orders," that I was starting him on a roving commission which was to extend over many months; and that when such special and costly re-

searches were concluded, he would continue all through the rest of his able and laborious career to gather, with an Antiquarian's zeal and patience, from Government Records, Wills, Parish Registers, Magazines, Historical Works, in short, from every conceivable source, a vast store of information about the Leete family.

My friend set about his task with the intelligence which only a man experienced in such intricate matters can command.

He took for his point of departure the Herald's Visitation of Cambridgeshire in 1619, for therein is set forth the genealogy of what we knew to be my branch of the family—the Leetes of Eversden. As a natural consequence, his first pilgrimage was to the most popularly known cradle of our race, the two small villages of Eversden—*Parva* and *Magna*, as the early records always say, when making a distinction between the two parishes. These places lie close together, and are about five miles from Cambridge. They had, no doubt, in days gone by, some little importance as an agricultural centre.

The Church registers of these two parishes were keenly scrutinized by the practised eye of Mr. Bridger; and although the ink was yellow with age, and the writing troublesome to decipher, the first page of the old chronicle of Eversden Magna afforded strong encouragement for our search. Thereon stands the entry:—

“23rd June, 1573. Baptism of Simeon, son of Robert Leete.”

The present seemed to be suddenly linked to the past, for my great-grandfather Robert gave to his eldest son the name of Simeon, and this Simeon (my grandfather) kept alive these traditional Christian names by giving them to my uncles Simeon and Robert.

It was, however, found that some of the ancient Registers, between the years 1600 and 1700, were missing. They had been destroyed by fire, or had disappeared through causes unknown to the present vicar or oldest inhabitant.

This break of nearly a century in the record was so serious a mischance that it looked at one time as though there would be no possibility of our constructing an unbroken chain of descent. Was the dust of centuries to lie undisturbed, and to cover for ever the very names of our ancestors? What a disappointment was this broken scent to an Antiquarian whose ardour for the chase had just been aroused!

In this unexpected emergency Mr. Bridger was compelled to send for me, and we met at Cambridge. What was to be done? Luckily, at this juncture, Mr. Bridger remembered that in former times there had been records known as Bishops' Transcripts. The very name was new to me, so my friend explained that these documents were copies of the Church Registers, made out yearly, and signed by the Vicar and Churchwarden, and sent to the Bishop's Court.

After some search, we found the documents at Cambridge, where they had been stowed away for generations. They proved to consist of strips of parchment, upon which was set forth the name and locality of the church, followed by a record of the *christenings*, marriages and burials which had taken place in the course of the year.

It was fortunate for the object of our search that the Leetes of Eversden, *Magna* and *Parva*, had occupied the position of Churchwardens during a long period of years, and had been careful to furnish the annual record for the Bishop's Court. The parchment strips we searched bore, in regular succession, the signature of "Leete, Churchwarden;" and you will, I hope, easily conceive that I could not, without deep interest, turn over those dusty, long-forgotten parchments, and reflect that the worthy Churchwardens had borne, throughout what we may reasonably believe was an honourable life, the same name which has come down through a score of generations to me and to you.

My friend Bridger took an exact tracing of many of these family signatures.

The Eversden parishes were not the only ones in which this record of the Leetes' connection with the Church had been preserved. They had held the like office of Warden in Gilden Morden, Royston, and at Kingston (Cambs.).

The transcript signed by Gyles Leete in 1609 was written throughout in a fine, bold, Elizabethan character. You will observe by the pedigree that he married a second cousin of Francis Bacon, Lord High Chancellor of England, and died in the same year (1626) as the great philosopher.

You will also find, under the Chapter "Miscellaneous," an account of a cause in the Court of Requests, 37th Elizabeth (1595), by which it appears that Gyles Leete, then resident at Shelland in Suffolk, sued for the recovery of the title-deeds of his estate in the parishes of Kingston, Eversden and Toft, all in the county of Cambridge.

This mention of an estate at Toft renders it probable that the Robert Lete of Toft, who was assessed to a subsidy, 1st Edward III. (1326-7), was the ancestor of the Leetes of Eversden.

Looking, then, to the position of importance which Gyles Leete occupied, it seems only natural that he should have been most careful to attend to the summons of the Herald when he visited Cambridge in 1619. Fortunately, the record made in that year has been preserved, and is now at the College of Arms, London.

It shows that Gyles was the grandson of John Leete, of Eversden, who stands at the top of our genealogical tree, and that he had the right to bear the Arms of the Leetes of Eversden.

On the same record a careful tracing of the Coat and Crest was made, so that we have not only an authentic pedigree as our starting-point, but likewise a faithful representation of the Leete Arms, as borne in these olden days.

The investigations commenced by Mr. Bridger at Eversden soon showed the necessity of pursuing the like researches in a large number of other parishes, and so in the end were brought to light those thousand and one entries in Parish Registers which appear in Chapter II. By no less a laborious process than this could all the needful links be found which form the long and unbroken chain of evidence upon which our pedigree rests.

Mr. Bridger was too conscientious an antiquarian to be satisfied with rash conclusions, or simple assumptions that this or that was the rightly assigned place in the chain of any one member of the family. He bent his energies therefore to the task of finding collateral evidence. For this purpose the wills at Peterborough, Ely, Bury St. Edmunds, London and elsewhere were examined; and, indeed, every source of evidence that is available for such a purpose was drawn upon.

When at length all these apparently chaotic elements were, by patience and intuitive talent, reduced to a well-ordered and coherent whole, he found he had been able to construct a most comprehensive and widely-extending genealogical tree of the Leetes of Eversden.

When you come, my dear children, to trace from the parent stem your own individual pedigree through all its ramifications during the past three centuries of time, you will be struck with the thought that, although many a man who was the head of his generation passed away without leaving any marked impress of his life, yet his individual existence, however insignificant it might at first sight appear, was an indispensable part of the whole.

You are, in like manner, forming by your life another link to be added one day to the past; and I pray that this new link in the long chain may, through your leading a noble life, become so bright as to add fresh lustre to the ancient name of Leete.

You will readily understand that Mr. Bridger could not, when gathering the materials, form any just appreciation of the value

or fitness for this purpose of any separate item of intelligence. He therefore very wisely took the same careful account of all; and when at length he distributed, or as he used to say, "appropriated" the materials, by assigning each fact to its proper place, it was found that he had not only built up a vast pedigree for the Eversden Leetes, but had made some score of others quite as accurate, if less elaborate, than that. These short pedigrees will, I feel sure, be found most serviceable to the Leete family as a whole, in whatever part of Great Britain and her Colonies, or the United States of America, they may now be living.

These records of ancient names, of localities, and of estates, and even of peculiar Christian names, will, I hope, furnish in numerous instances a clue to the origin and ancestry of many a living Leete, who is at this moment ignorant of the precise locality of his ancestral home and parent stock.

You will see that I am averse to the creation of a monopoly of what I suppose I may call "Leeteana."

The mass of facts collected at such pains and cost will inevitably become the common property of the Leete race. My hope is that you, my dear Children, will continue and extend the work thus begun by me.

In this labour of love you will, I doubt not, be assisted by many who, like yourselves, bear the name of Leete or Leet, and who cannot but possess for the appellation and its old associations a lively interest and a loving regard.

I remain, my dear Children,

Your affectionate Father,

JOSEPH LEETE.

To MY CHILDREN,

SUSANNA EMILY,

ARTHUR, WARREN, AND NORMAN.

Introduction.

“It is an ancient received saying,” quaintly wrote Sir John Wynne,* “that there is noe poverty but is descended of nobilitie, nor noe nobilitie but is descended of beggerie.

“When Adam delv'd and Eve span,
Who was then a gentleman?
Then came the churle and gathered good,
And thence arose the gentle blood.”

The question should be, then, not whether this or that family is of Saxon origin, or to be classed amongst those who, as the phrase runs, “came in with the Conqueror at the Conquest of England” (yet in truth there is no real evidence to prove that such a list as the so-called Roll of Battle Abbey was ever prepared); but whether a lesson of humanity may not be learned from the contemplation of those mysterious genealogical ties that seemingly link together in one universal brotherhood the whole human race, and how far off the end and object of our creation is from being realised?—one holy brotherhood as sons of God on earth, and joint-heirs with Christ in Heaven. It should teach us humility, the reflection how small a space we ourselves occupy in the great ocean of human life. Truly—

“We are such stuff
As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep!”

Certainly every inspection of the successive descents of a genealogy ought to remind us how transient our own life is.

Viewed in this light there is no unworthy egotism in a man's love of ancestry—an emotion natural to all. For who so insensible as not to experience a curiosity respecting the antecedents of his own family, a laudable feeling if it tends to inspire

* *History of the Gwydir Family.*

us with a desire to emulate and maintain the good name we have inherited from those who have gone before us.

The origin of a name is often lost in the mist of antiquity. Except in special cases surnames were not used by the Anglo-Saxons. The "Surname," as distinguished from the Christian name, is the "sur" or "super-nomen," the name given over and above the sire-name, or name received from the father; for "while there never was a time when every baptised man had not a Christian name, inasmuch as his personality before God was recognised, yet the surname—the name expressing a man's relation, not to the Kingdom of God, but to the worldly society in which he lives—is only of a much later growth, an addition to the other, as the word itself declares." * According to Camden, Du Cange, and other eminent authorities, the custom of appropriating a permanent appellation to particular families became fully established at the period of the Norman Conquest, yet surnames, properly so called, were not generally adopted by the mass of the people in this country until about the close of the 14th century.

Names prefixed with *De* and terminating with *ville* — as de Neville—or distinguished by the prefixes *Du*, *De la*, *Des*, and the suffixes *Beau*, *Mont*, *Aux*, etc., as a rule are derived from the districts or villes of Normandy and France, and were introduced into England by those adventurers who followed William, Duke of Normandy, into England.

Many of the surnames of the English people, as, for instance, Hawkins, Falconer, Palmer or Pilgrim, and Arrowsmith, are derived from the pursuits and customs of our forefathers, and furnish valuable evidence of the state and amusements of bygone feudal society. The surname of Smith, pre-eminently the most common name in England, indicates how widely extended in former times was the profitable and honourable avocation of an

* See Trench "*On the Study of Words.*" London, 1852.

armourer or smith. After the Smiths come the Taylors, next the Wrights, then the Walkers, Turners, Clarks, and so on. In regard to the last-mentioned surname, it is interesting to observe how many persons are found to derive their distinctive appellation from the clerkly office; a fact pointing to the possession, by the denizens of the Middle Ages, of a larger amount of learning than the people of those rude and unlettered times are generally credited with, when a king received the title of "Beauclerc" on account of his scholarship. Names such as Green, Barry, and Paley, evidently are derived from heraldry; and Black, White, and Brown, probably from personal appearances.

"The surnames of the English people," says Dr. Farr, "are derived from almost every imaginable object, from the names of places, from trades and employments, from personal peculiarities, from the Christian name of the father, from objects in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, from things animate and inanimate, and their varied character is as remarkable as their singularity is often striking."

Welsh surnames, fewer in number than English, as a rule are formed simply from the Christian name of the father in the genitive case, son being understood; thus the son of John becomes "Jones," Evan's son "Evans," and Ap (or son of) Howell, by contraction, Powell, etc.

In earlier times the spelling of names, both of persons and places, varied very much, and as if to render the matter still more complicated, sons have been known to bear a different surname to that of their fathers, wives other names than those borne by their husbands, whilst as an example of change of designation may be cited the case of that prelate who occupied the See of Norwich from A.D. 1446 to 1472, who is indifferently styled in old documents, Walter Lyhart, Le Hert, and Hart. The surname of the family with which, at present, we are more immediately concerned, is spelt in the succeeding pages after the following

nineteen different fashions, thus:—Letie, Lete, Lety, Lett, Lette, Leet, Leete, Leett, Leette, Leth, Letys, Lytte, Leots, Lote, Lutte, Lutt, Leat, Leatt, and Leate.

Obscurity envelops the origin and meaning of this name, Leete. The following not very satisfactory definition is suggested in *Patronymica Britannica*. "*Leet, Leete*. A meeting of cross roads. Halliw. The origin of *leet* as applied to an assembly or convention, as in court-leet, borough-leet, is disputed. See Richardson's Dict.; but the primary idea of a 'meeting' seems to be borne out by Mr. Halliwell's definition." When Halliwell made his conjecture, however, it was not known that this surname had, centuries ago, been spelt Letie, Lety, etc., which renders it very doubtful whether it could have had its origin in the word *leet*, as signifying either a meeting of cross-roads, or an assembly, as "court-leet."

At what precise date a coat of arms was originally assumed by or granted to that member of the family of Leete who first wore it, is unknown. Although now made use of merely to distinguish families, and, as such, of the greatest use in tracing pedigrees, coats of arms had, as the name imports, a military origin. Henry *l'oiseleur* (the Fowler), when regulating tournaments in Germany, ordered that every combatant should be distinguished by a list, mantle, or livery, composed of several bars or narrow pieces of stuff of opposite colours, in order that, during the engagement, the Knights, whose features could not be seen behind their nasal helmets or grated casques, might otherwise be distinguished; whence arose the *pale*, *bend*, &c., those ancient marks in heraldry, now denominated "honourable ordinaries": accordingly the honour of having invented heraldry is claimed by the Germans.

Other authorities affirm that coat-armour originated during the Crusades, when, to prevent the hot rays of the Syrian sun beating too fiercely on their iron dresses, the Christian Knights spread over the hauberk or coat of mail, the sur-coat as it was called, a light garment, whereon was emblazoned that distinc-

tive badge by which the mail-clad crusader might be identified. This badge of the warrior was repeated on his banner or pennon, and on his shield. After the crusading Knight had fallen in battle against the Infidel, his son and successor was proud to adopt a badge which had been so gloriously consecrated; and thus coats of arms came to be hereditarily transmitted.* So strictly, at first, was the use of coat-armour limited to the military profession, that a witness in a certain cause, in the year 1408, alleged that, although descended from noble blood, he had no armorial bearings, because neither himself nor his ancestors had ever been engaged in war. It was not until the time of Richard the Second that heraldic devices began to be displayed upon the civil as well as the military costume of the great. In the perpetuation of so warlike an idea as is conveyed by the term *coat of arms*, and in the fact that heraldic devices are still borne on *shields*, may plainly be discerned the military origin of heraldry. Knight, Esquire, and Gentleman, words often on modern lips, are in danger of losing their original significance; yet, in truth, these are neither more nor less than relics of the once noble military Institution of Chivalry: *Le Gentilhomme* or *gentle-man* of the olden time was the refined Christian Knight, as distinguished from a rude ruffian. An *Esquire* was the aspirant to Knightly honours, who patiently

* We look in vain on the Bayeux Tapestry, embroidered at the close of the eleventh century, for any indication that the surcoat was known at the date of the Conquest; yet, as early examples of its use, may be cited the grand cross-legged effigies of the Crusaders at the Temple Church. The two Great Seals of the crusading monarch, Richard I., exactly mark the growth of the then infant science of heraldry. On the first (1189—1192) appears a rampant lion, the symbol of valour; the second Seal (1194—1199) bears, however, three lions passant gardant, a charge which retains its place to this day in the royal escutcheon of England. In the blue tincture and golden lions painted on the surcoat, and repeated on the shield, of the monumental effigy of the crusader, William Longespée (Long-sword), half-brother to Cœur-de-Lion, in Salisbury Cathedral, may also be discerned a beautiful early specimen of heraldry.

served his apprenticeship to arms in the court of his prince or the hall of some neighbouring baron: the word itself, anciently *escuyer*, is derived from his former occupation of shield-bearer, and signifies that the Esquire carried his lord's shield, when the Knight himself was not actually engaged in battle. Before being admitted to the honour of Knighthood an aspirant had to undergo a long previous education, first of *page* or *varlet*, then through several degrees of *esquire*, and finally, after a protracted and fatiguing military training, amidst a solemn religious ceremonial, the oath of chivalry was tendered to the Knight; it was, "To speak the truth, to succour the helpless and oppressed, and never to turn back from an enemy." And well would it be for society if the pure *esprit des gentils-hommes* were universally diffused!

Yet the spirit of chivalry survives, although to be entitled to wear a coat of arms, and as a gentleman to be designated esquire, rests no longer on the basis of a long and painful military training, nor even on the dictum of a Herald's Visitation. A lively sense of what man owes to man, a fervent hatred of abuses, a chivalrous zeal in the cause of others, a freedom from cant, affectation and pretension, a fresh enjoyment of nature, of friendship, of literature, and graceful and engaging manners, whoever, happily for himself and those around him, possesses these, is a true gentleman. It has been well remarked that the repository of the Roman or Imperial type of character is not the aristocracy specially of this country, but its middle class, since here is to be recognized that union of the moral faculties and of the intellectual powers, that simplicity and strength of character, and that energy accompanied with judgment, which constitute the highest attributes of excellence in the human race. The real aristocracy of a nation is that which strengthens and dignifies a country, that which spreads her commerce and her power, and that creates her moral influence. Since then these grand results have mainly been achieved by the prowess of the middle class of England, it follows that, even from

the simplest annals of men derived therefrom, something may be gleaned of interest and profit.

Repeated reference being made in the following pages to certain *Visitations*, it will be proper here to observe that, "about three or four times in a century the Heralds, upon the authority of their College, and with the sanction of the Earl Marshal, visited every county, and taking up their quarters in the principal towns of the county, summoned all the resident gentry of each district, on a certain day and hour, to appear before them to prove, by sufficient documentary evidence, their right to bear arms; as also to furnish data for the establishment of their pedigree, which was duly registered in the Visitation Books, and attested by the signature of the representative of the family. This custom originated in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and was continued till that of James the Second." *

The similarity of the charges on shields of arms appertaining to various branches of the family of Leete, as certified upwards of two hundred and fifty years ago by Heralds, on their *Visitations* of the counties of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Suffolk, would seem to indicate that the Leetes then resident in the above-named Shires had descended from one and the same ancestor; yet what the lighted rolls of matches on these shields refers to is not easy to determine. It may have arisen from some now forgotten event or circumstance, or there may be an allusion to the name itself, Leete—*light*.

The following notes relating to the family of Leete are mainly the collection made at different intervals by the late Charles Bridger, Esq., F.R.H.S. Some of them are extracts laboriously culled by him from the Baptismal, Marriage, and Burial Registers of various Parishes, chiefly in the County of Cambridgeshire, and from the corresponding cotemporary transcripts in the Bishop's

* Lower's Discourse on Genealogy, in "*Contributions to Literature*." London, 1854. Page 219.

Court. Others consist of stray facts which this accurate genealogist skilfully selected from documents at the Record Office, or from the volumes at the College of Heralds, ancient Visitations, genealogical jottings, and biographic notices concerning divers branches or members of the Leete family, interesting particulars of the Leetes supplied from the Royalist Composition Papers, observations bearing on the Arms of the family in question, references to Leete Wills and Administrations, some of the former being curious, sundry letters, and, finally, extracts from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, etc.

No one unacquainted with the subject can have an adequate idea of the labour Mr. Bridger must have undergone before he succeeded in collecting so many specific genealogical facts; nor can any person unaccustomed to peruse old documents fully appreciate the difficulties he must have encountered, ere mastering the original handwriting wherein these multitudinous items of family intelligence lie embedded: this consideration alone would deter most persons from ever consulting the originals.

In order to preserve this valuable mass of genealogical lore, and so render it available for the use of others whom it may interest, in accordance with instructions received from its generous owner, I have endeavoured, in the following pages, to arrange Mr. Bridger's miscellaneous collection concerning the family of Leete. But beyond this editorial responsibility which embraces the insertion of a few elucidative remarks interspersed here and there throughout the volume, I lay no claim to the merits of the following compilation; the honour belongs to that intelligent investigator, whose untimely decease has left a gap which cannot easily be filled.

The able explanatory notes to which the letters J. L. are attached are from Mr. Joseph Leete's own pen.

CHAPTER I.



Antiquity of the Leete Family, etc.—Heraldic.

Antiquity of the Leete Family, etc.

THE antiquity of the family of Leete is proved not only by the dates of several Wills,* but is also shewn by the following:—

In the 10th King John (1209) Gerard or Gervasius Letie or Lete held lands in Morden, co. Cambridge.—*Pedes Finium, Record Office.*

In the 43rd Edw. III. (1370) Mathew Lety held lands in Blake-more, co. Herts.—*Ibid.*

Robtus fil Lete of Toft was assessed to a Subsidy 1 Edw. III. (1326-27):—probably the ancestor of the Leetes of Eversden. William Leete of Kingston held lands in Kingston, Eversden and Toft.

Many persons of the name of Lotes were assessed at the same time:—at Croxton, Stephen and John; at Bassingbourn, Simon and Matilda; and others whose residence cannot be determined.

Assessed to the subsidy for Cambridgeshire, 14-15 Hen. VIII. (1522-23):—

†Kingston	.	John Lette	.	.	.	in goods	£6.
Hokynton	.	Thomas Lete	.	.	.	„ „	£3.
Cottenham	.	John Lete	.	.	.	„ „	£3.
„	.	Agnes Lete	.	.	.	„ „	£3.
„	.	Henry Lete	.	.	.	„ wages	£2.
Comberton	.	Thomas Leete	.	.	.	„ „	£1.
„	.	Henry Leete	.	.	.	„ goods	£4.

* See Chapter IV.

† Doubtless the same person as the John Leete at the head of the Visitation of Cambridge Pedigree (1619); see page 8.

Cambridge .	John Lete, Smyth .	. .	in goods	£2.
Graveley .	Robert Lutte .	. .	„ „	£7.
Shelford Mag.	John Lett .	. .	„ wages	£1.
„ P̄va	John Leete .	. .	„ „	£1.

32 Hen. VIII. (1540-41).

* Eversden P̄va, John Lete.

* 34, 35 Hen. VIII. (1542-43).

Eversden Mag., John Lete.

1 Elizabeth (1558-9).

† Melborne .	Flower Lete, Widow .	in lands	£1.
† Eversden	{ Thomas Lete, Gent. .	„ „	£3 6s. 8d.
† Mag. et P̄va.	{ Robert Lete .	„ goods	£10.
Elteslye .	Richard Lutt .	„ „	£5.

8 Elizabeth (1566-7).

† Kingston .	Flower Leete, Widow .	in lands	£2.
† Eversden	{ Robert Leete .	„ „	£7.
† Mag. et P̄va.	{ Thomas Leete .	„ „	£3 6s. 8d.
Okington .	Thomas Leet .	„ goods	£3.

13 Elizabeth (1571-72).

Hockington	Thomas Leete .	in goods	£3.
Huddinham	Richard Lytte .	„ „	£5.
Wysbeche .	Richard Leet .	„ lands	£1.
† Kingston .	Flower Leete, Widow .	„ „	£2.
† Evesden .	Robert Leete, Gent. .	„ goods	£10.
† Barton .	Thomas Leete, Gent. .	„ lands	£3 6s. 8d.

35 Elizabeth (1593-4).

Wittelsford .	Robert Leth .	in goods	£4.
Castle Camps	Thomas Letys .	„ „	£3.

* Doubtless the same John Leete who figures at the head of the Visitation of Cambridge Pedigree (1619).

† See Visitation Pedigree.

‡ Married a lady at Barton ; see the full Pedigree.

39 Elizabeth (1597-8).

Eversden. No Leete.
 Okington. No Leete.
 Barton. No Leete.
 Kingston. No Leete.

1 James I. (1602-3).

Kingston. Gyles Leet in lands £2.

7 James I. (1608-9).

Kingston. Giles Leete, Gent. . . . in lands £2.
 Eversden. No Leete.
 Okington. No Leete.

19 James I. (1620-21).

Kingston. Giles Leet, Gent. . . . in lands £2.
 Oginton. Richard Leete.
 Eversden. No Leete.

1 Charles I. (1625).

Okington. Richard Leete in lands £2.
 Kingston. No Leete.
 Eversden. No Leete.

16 Charles I. (1640).

Cambridge. Jane Leete paid 6/-

LAY SUBSIDIES.

Devon, 15 Hen. VIII.

Woodbury. Rich. Lete goods 40/-

Northamptonsh. 35 Hen. VIII.

Barnewell. John Lett „ £4.
 „ Marg^t. Lett „ £3.

HEARTH TAX, 16 CHAS. II.

Cambridge.

Trinity Par.—Thomas Leete 2

HEARTHS.

	HEARTHES.
{ Robert Leete	2
{ Poor and not chargeable by the Act.	
{ Henry Raper, of Cambridge, owner.	
{ Daniel Whitfeild	4
{ Now John Peirce. Thomas Leete,	
{ owner, lives in Cambridge.	
St. Botolph Parish—Mary Leete, Wid.	6
George Leete	2
Chesterton.	
Walter Leet	2
Woodditton.	
Thomas Leete	2
Wivelingham.	
John Leete	1
Eversden.	
William Leete	2
John Leete	1
Robert Leete	3
Robert Leete (new entry)	1

Heraldic.



COPY OF THE VISITATION,

JOHN LEETE, of Eversden, ==
in com. Cant.

W^m. Leete, of Eversden, in ==
com. Cant.

Ellin, Widow of
W^m. Middleton,
of Hardwicke.

Anne, ux
Thomas
Francis.

Marie, ux John
Rogers, Doc-
tor of the
Civill Lawe.

Giles Leete, of ==
Kingston, in
com. Cant.,
liveing 1619.

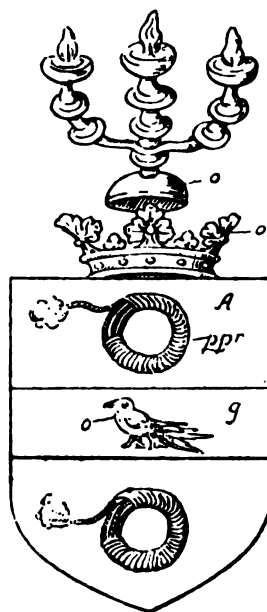
Will^m. Leete,
son and heire.

Dorithie
Ida.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE, 1619.

Ellin, dau. of Burguine.

Flower, dau. of Browne,
in com. Yorke.



Marg^t dau. of
John Bacon,
of Hassett, in
Suff.

Marie, ux Arthuer
Sedden, in Lanc.

Luce, ux Tho.
Revill, of
Derbish.

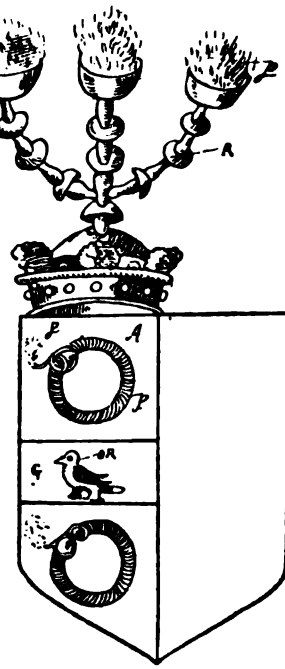
Anne, ux Vincent Gorman,
of Kent.

We do hereby certify that the above Pedigree and Arms
are faithfully extracted from the Visitation Book of
the County of Cambridge, A^o 1619, now remaining
in the College of Arms, London, and examined there-
with this 26th day of February, 1864, by us.

THO^s. W^m. KING, YORK HERALD.
G. E. ADAMS, ROUGE DRAGON.

From Visitation of Suffolk, 1612.

JOHN LETE of Eversden in y^e County of
Cambridg. married Ellen y^e daught^r of
and had issue Willm
sonē & heire Robert & Thomas.



Thomas y^e 3^d sonē of John married Dorathe y^e daught^r of
Richard Warde of Barton in y^e County of Cambridg. being of the
inēr Temple and had issue John sonē and heire, Elizabeth
married to Thomas Winde of Warwickshire.

John Lete of Berry S^t Edmond in Suff. sonē & heire of
Thomas esq. married Mary daught^r of Willm Bolnest of Bassing-
borne in y^e County of Cambridg. and as yet hath no issue.

I certify this to be a true extract from the Record C. 15,
now remaining in the Heralds' College, London,
18th Oct., 1880.

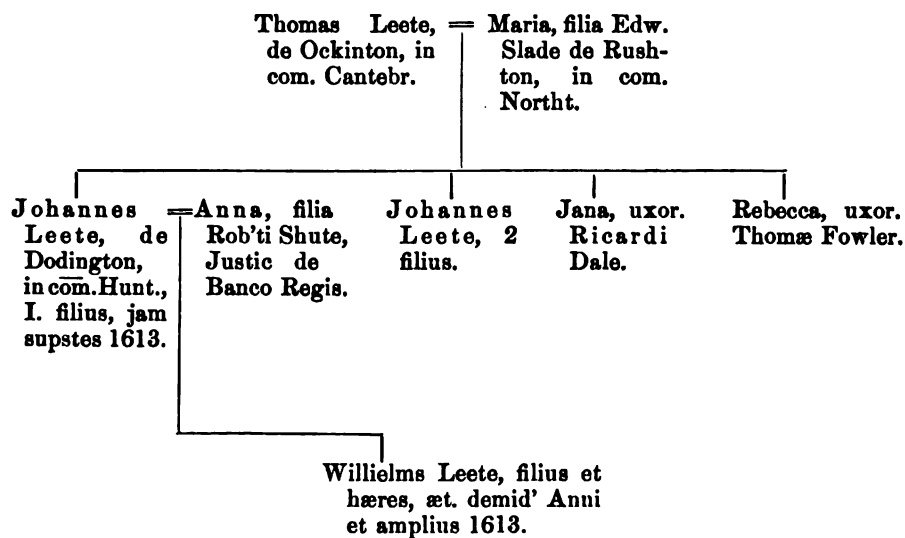
STEPHEN TUCKER,

Somerset

H.

PEDIGREE OF LEETE,

From the Visitation of Huntingdonshire, 1613.



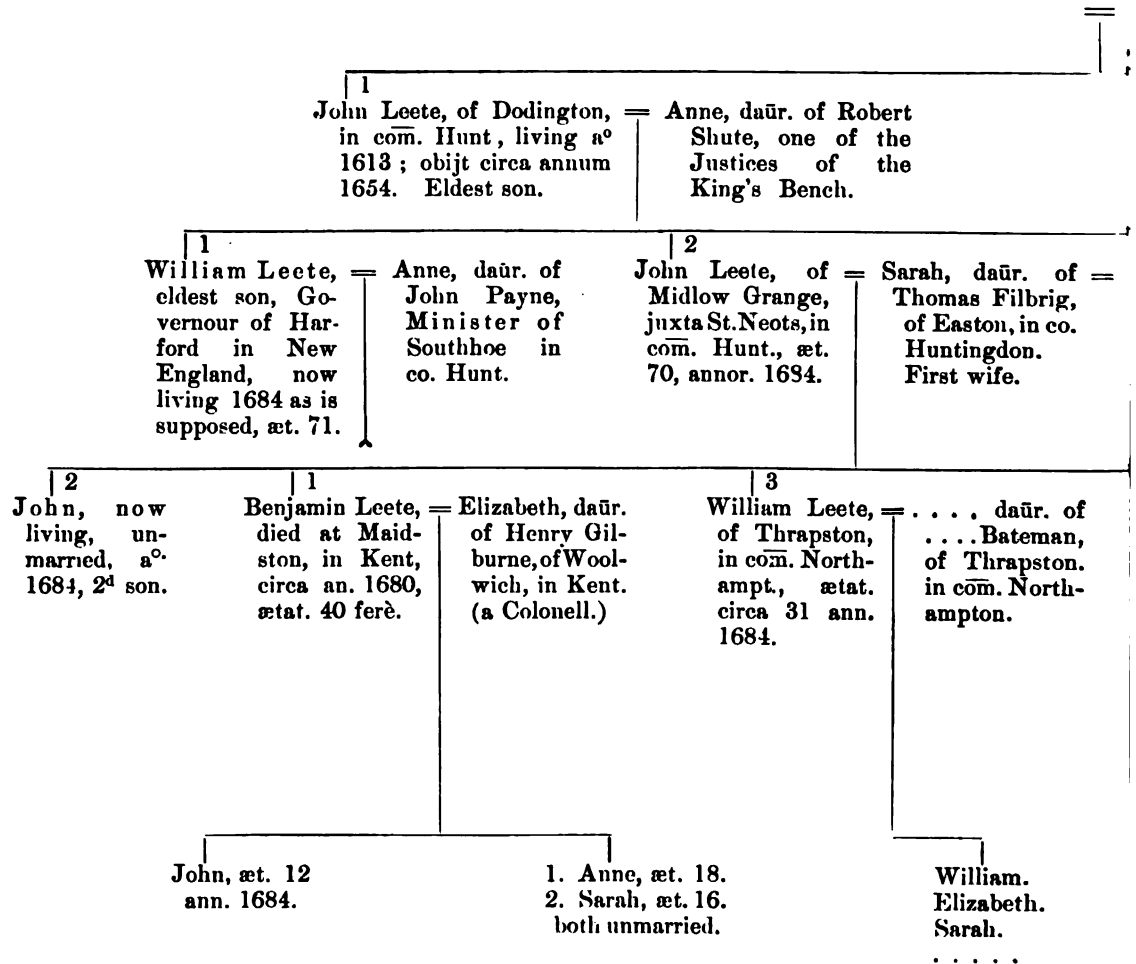
I certify the above to be a correct copy of the entry in the Visitation of Huntingdon in 1613 (C.3. 29^a) now remaining in the Heralds' College, London, 15th Oct., 1880.

STEPHEN TUCKER,

Somerset

H.

P E D I G R E E

From Visitation of

John Leete

OF LEETE,

Huntingdon, 1684.

2

John Leete, of Islington,
juxta London, married and
left issue



Elizabeth, daŭr. of
. . . . Butts, of
. . . . in Surrey,
widow of Abra-
ham Burrell, of
Midlow. 2 wife.

Anne, married to
Rob^t Raby, of
Huntington, dra-
per.

1

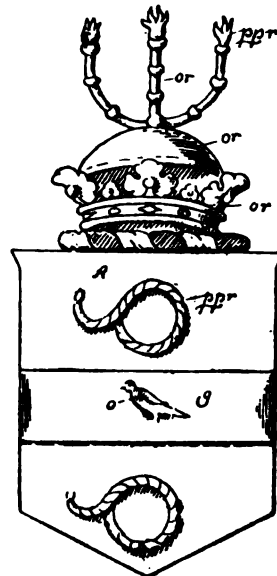
Mary, married to
Richard Pigot,
of Chetwynd,
in cōm Salop,
Esq., by whom
she had issue
Walter her
onely son, ætat-
is circa 13 ann.
1684.

2

Elizabeth, first marr.
to Sam. Hall, of. . .
in paroch de Frods-
ham, in Cheshire;
after marr. to Riley
Bateman, of Thrap-
ston, a Divine Min^r
of Spratton, and had
issue by the first
Eliz. Hall, and by the
2^d husb^d. Michaell
Bateman and 2 daŭrs.

3

Sarah, married to
Richard Fil-
brigg, of Spald-
wick, in co.
Hunt., and had
issue Richard,
her onely son.



This Coat and Crest are taken from
a Vellom Escucheon, but the descent
is entred without arms in the former
Visitation.

I certify this to be a true extract from the Record K. 7
now remaining in the Herald's College, London,
18th Oct., 1880.

STEPHEN TUCKER,
Somerset
H.

Arms of Leet and Leete, from Burke.

Leet (Eversden and Kingston, co. Cambridge; Southoo, co. Huntingdon; and Suffolk; Her. Office H. 14). Argent a fesse gules between two rolls of matches sable kindled proper. Crest: on a ducal coronet an antique lamp or, fired proper.

Leete (Bury St. Edmonds, co. Suffolk). Argent on a fesse gules between two matches kindled proper a martlet or.

Leete. Argent on a fesse gules between two rolls of matches sable fired proper; a martlet of the field. Crest: a demi-bull issuing gules gorged with a chaplet of laurel vert.

From "Aspidora Segariana" Add. MS. 12225, in the handwriting of Simon Segar, grandson of Garter Segar.

LETE.

A. on a fess G. between two matches rolled and fired pp. a martlet O.

To Lete of Com. Suff.

. . . . of y^e aboves^d Arms & Crest Viz^t. Out of a Crown Ducal O. a Lamp of 3 branches O. fired pp.

Harl. MS. 6140, contains a collection of Segars Grants and Confirmations. In this MS. the Arms are carefully tricked, mostly in the hand (I believe) of Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald.

He beareth Arg. on a fess gu. between 2 matches kindled pro. a martlet or. This Coat Armour pertaineth to the family of Leet of Southoo, in Huntingdonshire, descended from the Leets of Suffolk, who had a patent of these Arms from Sir Wm. Segar. Her. Col. H. 14.

Gwillam, Ed. 1724, p. 330.

The Visitations of the Heralds.

JOHN LEETE, OF EVERSDEN.

It may be useful to recall the reader's attention to the circumstance that the establishment of parish registers did not take place until the reign of Henry VIII. (1538), also that during the reign of the same monarch, the custom originated of sending out Heralds, who, upon their arrival in the principal towns of each county, summoned the resident gentry of each district to appear before them, to prove, by documentary evidence, their right to bear arms, also to furnish dates for the establishment of their pedigree, which was duly registered in the Visitation Books, and attested by the signature of the representative of the family.

The John Leete whose name stands at the head of the Eversden pedigree was born anterior to the origin of parish registers, or the visitations of Heralds.

Deprived, therefore, of the valuable help which such documentary evidence affords, we have not yet been able to ascertain the date of the birth or death of this ancestor. We have, nevertheless, sufficient evidence to show that he must have been born somewhere about the year 1500.

In Newcourt's "History of St. Albans" there is given :—

"An Extract from an account of the lands and possessions of the Monastery of St. Albans, in the County of Herts, 1544.

Rectory of Eversden Magna—John Lete, Farmer, 11 : 6 : 8."

Six years later we find that property was left to him by his second son, Edmund, whose will was proved in the Consistory Court of Ely, in August, 1550.

We have shown, in another note, the reasons which lead us to conclude that the Leetes of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk were members of the same family, and we think it is also reasonable to *conclude* that John Leete, whose name stands at the head of the pedigree, was recognised during his lifetime as the head of the family.

We are fortunate in possessing four most important historical records, which serve as a safe point of departure.

These are the several visitations of the Heralds; to Suffolk in 1612, to Cambridgeshire in 1619, and to Huntingdonshire in 1613 and 1684, the records of whose labors are still preserved at the Royal College of Arms, London.

Attested copies of these documents have been supplied to me, and are reproduced in the preceding pages. According to the oldest visitation—that of Suffolk in 1612—John Leete, of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, was the son of Thomas, third son of John of Eversden. To this grandson, the right to the use of the arms was confirmed.

Passing over, for the present, the second date, we would next call attention to the third visitation, that of Cambridgeshire in 1619. Here again we find that it was a grandson of John of Eversden whose claim to the arms was allowed. The claimant was Gyles Leete, of Kingston, Cambs, son of William, eldest son of John of Eversden. Turning to the two other recorded visitations, 1613 and 1684, it will be seen that they are both of Huntingdonshire.

The first, 1613, is very short, and commences with Thomas Leete, of Ockington, Cambs, whose son John was then living in the neighbouring county of Huntingdon. John's son and heir is William, then aged more than six months.

John signed the record, but, for reasons not known, did not enter the arms thereon.

When the second visitation took place, in 1684, we find by the record that in the year after the first visitation a second son, John, was born to John of Doddington, and he rendered good service to those of his posterity who are curious in matters of genealogy, by responding to the summons of the Heralds in 1684.

By the ample record which he supplied, we find that the little William, son and heir, aged more than six months in the year 1613, had in the long intervening period grown to man's estate, had emigrated to America, and had risen to the dignity of Governor of Harford.

William was supposed to be still living when that public record was made, but we know from history that he had departed this life in the course of the previous year, 1683.

John repaired the omission made in the former visitation, and claimed

his right to the same arms as those confirmed to the Leetes in the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire visitations.

Thereupon the arms were entered, and underneath are the following words:—

“This Coat and Crest are taken from a Vellom Escoccheon, but the descent is entered without arms in the former visitation.”

It is interesting to note, in connection with this, that Governor William Leete, who left England for America in 1639, only twenty-six years after the visitation of 1613, made public use of his family coat of arms. The documents signed by him in his official capacity of Governor of Connecticut, bear a seal showing the arms of the Leetes of Eversden: (see facsimile on page 69).

It is right, therefore, to assume that there existed a blood relationship, probably of close degree, between John Leete of Eversden and Thomas Leete of Ockington (Oakington), both of which places are in Cambridgeshire, and not far apart.

The two branches appear to have perpetuated, for a couple of centuries, the most favourite of the Christian names, John, William, Thomas, etc., with which the respective pedigrees make us so familiar.

We are under obligations to this 1684 record, not only for confirming the identity of origin and consanguinity of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire branches of the Leete family, but also for furnishing us other items of intelligence of exceeding interest.

We refer especially to the name and parentage of the wife of Governor William Leete. That he married Anne, daughter of John Payne, minister of Southhoe, Hunts, leads us to think that he fell under the influence of his wife's family, and was thus led to espouse the Puritan cause, and finally connect himself with that noble band of men, whose honorable career is set forth in the letter of the late Judge Smith (*vide* page 68).

Another item which claims our special notice is that the

WILLIAM LEETE

named after his uncle, then living in America, had settled at Thrapston, in the adjoining county of Northampton. There he became the founder of an important branch of the Leete family, to which reference is often made in these pages. The connection with the town of Thrapston, commenced more than two centuries ago, has continued uninterruptedly down to the present time.

It was only natural that Judge Smith, seeking to clear up the mystery that surrounded the origin and ancestry of William Leete, should direct his enquiries to Huntingdonshire ; and equally natural does it appear that his letter should find its way into the hands of the present representative of the Thrapston branch, Mr. William Griffiths Leete, now residing at Birkenhead. That gentleman is a lineal descendant of Governor William Leete. It was through him that I obtained possession of Judge Smith's letter of enquiry, and I have had since the pleasure of making his personal acquaintance. In these explanatory notes concerning the Herald's visitations, I have not thought it necessary to make further allusion to the Cambridgeshire branch of the family, because their pedigree is given elsewhere in ample detail.

The information given respecting the origin of the Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire branches of the Leete family will, I trust, prove acceptable to the representatives of that stock now living in England.

With regard to those in America who bear the same patronymic as myself, and who claim to have descended from Governor William Leete, I trust they will accord a hearty welcome to these revelations from Old World records of the origin and ancestry of one of the most worthy of the founders of New England.

Explanatory Note by J. L.

Copy of Letter from Mr. JOHN LEETE to Miss LYDIA LEETE :—

10, FOSTER LANE, CHEAPSIDE,

31st December, 1853.

DEAR MADAM,—You may probably remember my sister and myself calling upon you in the summer of last year. Upon that occasion you informed me that the branch of the Leete family to which you belonged formerly lived at Eversden in Cambridgeshire. Knowing that some of the earlier ancestry of my own family were once of Cambridgeshire, I have devoted, since I had the pleasure of seeing you, considerable time in making out their pedigree, which I now enclose you for your perusal, together also with such members of the Eversden branch as I have been able to discover. I commenced my search at the Heralds' Office, where I found at once a genealogy of Leetes from Thomas Leete, of Ockington, in Cambridgeshire, down to William Leete, of Thrapston, in Northamptonshire, and three of his children, all of whom were living in 1684, as recorded in the Heralds' books at the Visitation held in that year.

This William was the first Leete of Thrapston, and from him down to my late father I had no difficulty in tracing the descent, as I found a Will of a member of each generation at Doctors Commons which connected the one with the other, by name and description, and which I have fully explained in the margin of the Ockington pedigree. The other notes in the margin of this pedigree refer to and explain the Visitation of 1684, and one previously held in 1613, which prove the descent down to the parties living in 1684. The descent from John, of Eversden, which I also enclose, you will observe comprises four generations which were all copied from Heralds' books. There are no Leetes recorded in these books excepting the two descents I now forward. That John Leete, of Eversden, and Thomas Leete, of Ockington, were related is quite clear, inasmuch as, besides being of the same County, at the Visitation for Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in 1612 and

1619 concerning the Eversden family, and at the Visitation for Huntingdonshire in 1684 concerning the Ockington family, the Coat and Crest entered in the College books are precisely the same, and at the Visitation in 1684 it is remarked in the Heralds' books that the descent was entered without Arms in the former Visitation (meaning the Visitation in 1613), and then it is added that in the Visitation of 1619 (which was the Visitation for Cambridgeshire, at which the Eversden family were recorded), the Coat is entered also. Thus the Heralds must have had proof before them that the Eversden and Ockington families were the same, otherwise they would not have referred to a Visitation concerning the Eversden branch, at a Visitation respecting the Ockington branch, for evidence in support of the latter's right to be entered in the College books, and the same Crest was used by my late uncle of Thrapston, who died in April last. My father did not use his family crest because of the duty, and also as the family seal on the death of his father passed into the hands of his younger brother. In what way, however, the two branches were connected I have not as yet discovered. The relationship might nevertheless be ascertained by reference to the Wills of the respective parties, in which no doubt mention is made by the one of the other, which would show the degree of kindred between them. You will observe that the Coat was originally granted to a Lete, of Suffolk, but neither his Christian name nor his residence is mentioned. This grant was anterior to the earliest record made at the College of either the Eversden or Ockington families. From one or other of the pedigrees you will doubtless be able to trace your own descent, which I beg to suggest, if you come direct from John, of Eversden, must be either from William Leete, the son of Giles Leete, of Kingston, or from John Leete, of Bury St. Edmonds, the son of Thomas Leete, of the Inner Temple, or, upon the other hand, if you are descended, like my own family, in a straight line from Thomas Leete, of Ockington, must be either from John Leete, of Islington, the brother of John, of Doddington, or from John, aged 12 in 1684, son of Colonel Benjamin Leete, who died before that year, and who was the eldest son of John Leete, of Midlow Grange, or it might have been from John, the second son of John, of Midlow Grange. Should you desire to ascertain and complete your descent, which I have no doubt might be easily done, I shall feel great pleasure in assisting you, so completely have I established the descent of my own family from Thomas, of Ockington, that the College would, upon petition and production of the wills referred to in the pedigree

since the year 1684, admit us as descendants of the original grantee of the Coat and Arms which would entitle us legally to use the same, and as this could be done for about £10, we have some intention of doing it, seeing that the family have for so many generations belonged to the gentry of England.

I beg to remain, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

Miss LEETE.

JOHN LEETE.

CHAPTER II.



Extracts relating to Baptisms, Marriages and Burials.

Baptisms, Marriages, Burials.

THE origin of the registration of births, deaths and marriages, and the establishment of regular parish registers are to be traced to the year 1538, about which time Thomas Lord Cromwell being appointed the King's Vice-Regent for Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, in the exercise of his functions he issued, in the 30th year of King Henry VIII., 1538-9, certain injunctions to the clergy; and among others, one enjoining each of them to keep a book or books, in which they should enter all births, deaths and marriages within their respective parishes. In the year 1547 the first of Edward VI., visitors were directed to enforce this, among other matters, upon the clergy. During a portion of the reign of Elizabeth, especially in the 1st, 7th and 39th years of her reign, the clergy were required to make protestation that they would keep their register-books in a proper manner. Several of the canons also, which date their authority from James I., 1603, prescribe with great minuteness the mode in which entries are to be made in the registers; and they also order an attested copy of the same to be forwarded annually to the bishop of the diocese or his chancellor.

The frequent loss of parish registers may occasionally be supplied by the transcripts preserved in the registry of the diocese. These transcripts were first ordered to be transmitted to the bishop in the year 1597; and subsequent ordinances have enjoined their punctual transmission. But in some dioceses no attention has been paid to the subject, and in no one diocese are the transcripts perfect. The canon of 1597 did not require a transcript of the antecedent registers for the bishop; but by the canon of 1603, the transcripts made in pursuance thereof have, at the present day, the same authority with respect to evidence as an original document.*

* *The History of Parish Registers in England, with Observations on Bishops' Transcripts*, by JOHN SOUTHERDEN BURN. Lond., 1829. 8vo.

LITTLE EVERSDEN.

Baptisms.

- 1703. John, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete.
- 1705. Rebecca, dau. of Robert and Anne Leete.
- 1705. Ann, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete.
- 1708. John, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete.
- 1710. Thomas, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete.
- 1712. Samuel, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete.

- 1724. Robert, son of Robert and Honour Leete.

- 1724. Robert, son of Robert and Mary Leete.
- 1725. Mary, dau. of Charles and Mary Leete.

- 1727-8. Simeon, son of Robert and Mary Leete.
- 1728. Anne, dau. of Charles and Mary Leete.
- 1730. Mary, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete.
- 1731-2. Robert, son of Robert and Mary Leete.
- 1733. John, son of John and Elizabeth Leete.

LITTLE EVERSDEN.

Baptisms.

- 1603. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon Leete, 18 Dec
- 1605. John, son of Symond Leete, 15 Dec.
- 1607. Simeon Leete, signed as Churchwarden.
- 1607. William, son of Symon Leete, 27 Dec.
- 1610. Israel, son of Simeon Leete, 11 Dec.
- 1612. Anne, dau. of Simeon Leete, 11 Oct.
- 1614. Robert, son of Simeon Leete, 13 March.
- 1617-8. Edmund, son of Simeon Leete, 16 Dec.
- 1618. Giles, son of Simeon Leete, 7 Dec.
- 1620. Anne, dau. of Symon Leete, 5 March.
- 1639. Robert and John, sons of William and Elizabeth Leete,
27 March.

1711-12. Simeon Leete, signed as Churchwarden.

1714. Thomas Leete, born 18 June.

1724. Robert, son of Robert and Honor Leete.
Robert Leete, signed as Churchwarden.

1725. Robert, son of Robert and Mary Leete, 10 Oct.

1725. Mary, dau. of Charles and Mary Leete, 13 Mar.

1727-8. Simeon, son of Robert and Mary Leete, 17 Mar.

1728. Anne, dau. of Charles and Mary Leete, 7 Dec.

1730. Mary, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete, 20 Sept.

1732. Robert, son of Robert and Mary Leete, 25 June.

1733. John, son of John and Elizabeth Leete, 25 Dec.

LITTLE EVERS DEN—*continued.*

1735. Ellen, dau. of Duckett and Ellen Leete.
1735. Elizabeth, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete.
1735. Elizabeth, dau. of John and Elizabeth Leete.
1736. Ann, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete.
1741. Frances, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete.
1741. Rebecca, dau. of Duckett and Ellen Leete.
1744. William, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete.
1747. William, son of William and Rose Leete.
1748. William, son of William and Rose Leete.
1749. Joseph, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete.
1752. Joseph, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete.
1754. William, son of William and Mary Leete.
1756. John, son of William and Mary Leete.
1764. Robert, son of Robert and Lydia Leete.
1766. Stephen, son of Robert and Lydia Leete.
1767. Mary, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete.
1769. Lydia, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete.
1771. Samuel, son of Robert and Lydia Leete.
1773. Sarah, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete.
1777. Elizabeth, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete.
1778. Lydia, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete.

Marriages.

LITTLE EVERSDEEN—*continued.*

1735. Ellen, dau. of Duckett and Ellen Leete, 29 May.
1735. Elizabeth, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete, 20 July.
1735-6. Elizabeth, dau. of John and Elizabeth Leete, 23 Jan.
Robert Leete, signed as Churchwarden.
1736. Ann, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete, 20 Jan.
1741. Frances, dau. of Robert and Mary Leete, 21 May.
1741. Rebecca, dau. of Duckett and Ellen Leete, 21 May.
1745. William Leete, 9 Sep.
1747. William Leete, 14 June.
1748. William Leete, 19 March.
1749. Joseph, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete, 27 Aug.
1752. Joseph, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete, 15 Sep.
1754. William, son of William and Mary Leete, 16 June.
1756. John, son of William and Mary Leete, 15 Feb.
Robert Leete, signed as Churchwarden, last time.
1764. Robert, son of Robert and Lydia Leete, 29 Jan.
Robert Leete, signed as Churchwarden.
1766. Stephen, son of Robert and Lydia Leete, 2 Feb.
1767. Mary Leete, 31 May.
1769. Lydia, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete, 6 Aug.
1769. Simeon Leete, son of Simeon Leete and Mary Watts,
5 Nov.
1771. Samuel, son of Robert and Lydia Leete, 17 Mar.
1773. Sarah, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete, 5 Dec.
1777. Elizabeth, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete, 20 Apr.
Robert Leete ceased to be Churchwarden.
1778. Lydia, dau. of Robert and Lydia Leete, 20 Nov.

Marriages.

1635. William Leete and Elizabeth Baron, 27 Jan.

LITTLE EVERS DEN—*continued*.

1751. William Leete, widower, and Mary Leete.

Burials.

1704. John Leete and Anne Leete, children of Simeon.

1709. Anne Leete.

1709-10. Robert Leete.

1713. Robert Leete, senior.

1713. Thomas Leete.

1715. Thomas Leete.

1716-7. Judith Leete.

1723-4. Simeon Leete.

1725. Robert, son of Robert and Mary Leete.

1728-9. Charles Leete.

1741. Duckett, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete.

1741. Ann Leete, widow.

1746. Elizabeth Leete.

1748. Mary Leete.

1749. Joseph Leete, an infant.

1749. Ellen Leete.

1752. John Leete.

1752. Samuel Leete.

1756. John Leete, an infant.

1756. William Leete, aged 40.

1757. Mary Leete, aged 56.

LITTLE EVERSDEDN—*continued*.

1751. William Leete, widower, and Mary Leete, spinster,
24 Nov.
1758. John Butler and Anne Leete, 24 June.

Burials.

1616. Anne, dau. of Simeon Leete, 21 May.
1617-8. Edmund, son of Simeon Leete, 4 Jan.
1667. Elizabeth Leete, 24 Feb.
1713. Robert Leete.
1713. Thomas Leete.
1723. Simeon Leete.
1725. Robert, son of Robert and Mary Leete, 15 Feb.
1728. Charles Leete, carpenter, 4 Feb.
1731. Elizabeth Leete, widow, 15 March.
1741. Duckett, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete, 6 Apr.
1741. Ann Leete, widow, 20 January.
1746. Elizabeth Leete, 22 June.
1748. Mary Leete, 2 Sept.
1749. Joseph Leete, an infant, 7 Sept.
1749. Ellen Leete, 12 Oct.
1752. John Leete, 4 March.
1752. Samuel Leete, 21 March.
1756. John Leete, an infant, 13 May.
1756. William Leete, 30 Oct.
1757. Mary Leete, 6 June.

LITTLE EVERSSEN—*continued.*

- 1758. Rebecca Leete, aged 17.
- 1760. Frances Leete, aged 20.
- 1762. Robert Leete, aged 66.
- 1763. Thomas Leete, aged 19.
- 1770. Mary Leete, an infant.
- 1770. Lydia Leete, an infant.
- 1773. Samuel Leete, a child.
- 1781. Joseph Leete, aged 29.
- 1782. Lydia Leete, aged 48.
- 1788. John Leete, an infant.
- 1789. Robert Leete, aged 57.
- 1793. Duckett Leete, aged 94.
- 1796. Simeon, son of Simeon and Sarah Leete.
- 1800. William, son of Simeon and Sarah Leete.
- 1812. Sarah, wife of Simeon Leete.

GREAT EVERSSEN.

Baptisms.

- 1573. Simeon, son of Robert Leete, 23 June.
- 1574. Judith Leete, 11 July.
- 1576. Deborah, dau. of Robert Leete, 22 July.
- 1579. ———, dau. of Robert Leete, 8 May.
- 1581. Weondorgas, son of Robert Leete, 23 July.
- 1583. Susanna, dau. of Robert Leete, 10 Nov.

- 1714. Thomas, son of Simeon Leete.
- 1726-7. Elizabeth, dau. of Robert and Honour Leete.
- 1733. Simeon, son of Robert and Honour Leete, 2 Apr.
- 1735. Thomas, son of Robert and Honour Leete.
- 1742. Charles, son of Duckett and Ellen Leete.

LITTLE EVERSDEDEN—*continued.*

- 1758. Rebecca, Leete, 30 Nov.
- 1760. Frances Leete, 2 Oct.
- 1762. Robert Leete, 16 Dec.
- 1763. Thomas Leete, 10 June.
- 1770. Mary Leete, 16 Apr.
- 1770. Lydia Leete, 16 Oct.
- 1773. Samuel Leete, a child, 14 Apr.
- 1781. Joseph Leete, aged 29, 12 Aug.
- 1782. Lydia Leete, aged 48, 3 Nov.

GREAT EVERSDEDEN.

Baptisms.

- 1636. William, son of William and Elizabeth Leete, 21 June.
William Leete, Churchwarden.

- 1735. Thomas, son of Robert and Honour Leete, 21 Mar.

GREAT EVERSDEEN—*continued.*

1742. Flower, dau. of Robert and Honour Leete, born 28 Sep.,
1729, bap. 24 Feb., 1742.
1744. Elizabeth, dau. of William and Rose Leete, 17 May.
1745. Mary, dau. of William and Rose Leete, 19 Jan.
1751. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete.

1778. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete.
1780. Joseph and Robert, sons of Simeon and Mary Leete.
1783. Joseph, son of Simeon and Mary Leete.
1785. Mary and Sarah, daus. of Simeon and Mary Leete.

Marriages.

1573. Robert Leete and Alise Grude, 6 Apr.
1694. Simeon Leete, of Little Eversden, and Elizabeth Galen,
of Great Eversden.
1721. Robert Leete, of Little Eversden, and Honour Hawkes.

1742. Simeon, or Samuel, Leete, and Mary Bowde.

Burials.

1746. Mary, dau. of William and Rose Leete.
1747. William, son of William and Rose Leete.
1749. Rose, wife of William Leete.
1762. Mary Leete, widow.
1766. Robert Leete, innholder.

1774. Honour, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete.

GREAT EVERSDEEN—*continued.*

1742. Flower, dau. of Robert and Honour Leete, 27 Feb.
1744. Elizabeth, dau. of William and Rose Leete, 17 May.
1745. Mary, dau. of William and Rose Leete, 19 Jan.
1751. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 19 Dec.
Simeon Leete, signed as Churchwarden, 1750 & '51.
1778. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 4 Jan.
1780. Joseph and Robert, sons of Simeon and Mary, 16 July,

Marriages.

1721. Robert Leete, of Little Eversden, and Honour Hawkes,
2 Oct.
1742. Samuel Leete, of Little Eversden, and Mary Bowde, of
Great Eversden, 14 Nov.
1752. James Rogers, of Wimpole, and Elizabeth Leete, of
Great Eversden, 11 Feb.

Burials.

1746. Mary, dau. of William and Rose Leete, 20 Apr.
1749. Rose, wife of William Leete, 12 June.
1762. Mary Leete, widow, 20 Dec.
1766. Robert Leete, 6 Oct.
1767. Robert Leete, innholder, 12 Oct.
1774. Honour, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 20 Nov.

GREAT EVERSDEDN—*continued*.

- 1780. Joseph Leete.
- 1780. Robert Leete.
- 1783. Joseph Leete.
- 1785. Sarah Leete.
- 1785. Mary Leete.
- 1785. Mary Leete.

KINGSTON.

Marriages.

Burials.

ORWELL.

Baptisms.

GREAT EVERSDEEN—*continued.*

1780. Joseph Leete, 12 Sept.
 1780. Robert Leete, 26 Sept.

KINGSTON.

Marriages.

1626. Mr. Cornelius Archer and Mrs. Dorothy Leete, 1 Feb.
 1743. William Leete, of Great Eversden, and Rose Green, of Great Eversden, 4 July.
 1752. Joseph Day, of Little Eversden, and Flora Leete, of Great Eversden, 30 June.

Burials.

1626. Mr. Giles Leete,* 20 Oct.

ORWELL.

Baptisms.

1753. Ann, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leet, 29 Apr.
 1755. John, son of John and Elizabeth Leete, 3 Nov.
 1755. Robert, son of Simeon and Mary Leet, 14 Sep.
 1757. Simeon, son of John and Elizabeth Leet, 9 Jan.
 1760. Elizabeth, dau. of John and Elizabeth Leet, 15 Apr.
 1774. Sarah, dau. of John and Elizabeth Leet, 25 Dec.
 1783. Sarah, dau. of John and Alice Leete, 2 March.

* This Giles Leete, of Shelland, co. Suffolk, and afterwards of Kingston, co. Cambridge, was husband of Margaret Bacon, second cousin of the illustrious Francis Bacon, Lord High Chancellor of England and the immortal author of the *Novum Organum*. Described as of Kingston, co. Camb., Giles Leete is named in the Visitation of 1619.

ORWELL—*continued.*

Marriages.

Burials.

1756. Robert Leete, an infant.

1785. John Leete.

WHADDON.

Baptisms.

Marriages.

Burials.

ORWELL—continued.

1785. John, son of John and Alice Leete, 24 July.

Marriages.

1757. Simeon Leet and Hannah Course, 24 July.
1765. John Peter and Mary Leet, 16 Oct.
1777. James Leete and Letitia Lunnis, 19 June.
1777. John Leete and Alice Smith, 15 Oct.
1786. George Collis and Elizabeth Leete, 13 Apr.

Burials.

1758. Hannah, dau. of Simeon and Hannah Leet, 18 May.
1760. Simeon, son of Simeon and Hannah Leet, 13 July.
1785. John, son of John and Alice Leet, 5 Aug.
1786. Elizabeth Leete, widow, 15 Apr.
1820. Elizabeth Leete, of Orwell, aged 84, 10 July.

WHADDON.**Baptisms.**

1757. Honor, dau. of Thomas and Mary Leet, 26 Nov.
1760. Simeon, son of Thomas and Mary Leet, 14 Dec.
1764. Flora, dau. of Thomas and Mary Leet, 29 July.
1781. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Lydia Leet, 9 Jan.
1782. Lydia, dau. of Samuel and Lydia Leet, 22 Apr.

Marriages.

1776. Thomas Evans and Elizabeth Leet, 13 Oct.
1780. Simeon Leete and Lydia Giffin, 17 Apr.

Burials.

1762. Simeon, son of Thomas Leet, 7 Mar.
1778. Honor, dau. of Thomas and Mary Leet, 16 Sep.
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WIMPOLE.

Marriages.

MELBOURNE.

Marriages.

Baptisms.

GILDEN MORDEN.

Baptisms.

- 1726. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 14 Nov.
- 1729. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 1 Oct.
- 1734. Tabitha, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 27 Oct.
- 1735. Judith, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 16 Nov.
- 1739. Simeon (*William erased*), son of Simeon and Mary Leete, 6 Apr.
- 1740. Simeon, son of Simeon and Mary Leete, 17 Nov.
- 1740. Judith, admitted into the Church, having been privately baptised before.
- 1765. Ede, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 20 Jan.
- 1766. Simeon, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 10 Aug.

WIMPOLE.

Marriages.

1762. Robert Leete, of Little Eversden, and Lydia Hawkes,
of this Parish, 28 Dec.

MELBOURNE.

Marriages.

1753. John Lawrence and Elizabeth Leete, both of Gilden
Morden, 19 Apr.
1760. James Richardson and Rebecca Leets, 10 Dec.

Baptisms.

1781. James, son of John and Alice Leet, 18 Mar.

GILDEN MORDEN.

Baptisms.

1725. Ann, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leet, 26 Sep.

Simeon Leete, signed as Churchwarden, from 1734 to
1774.

1766. Simeon, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 10 Aug.
1768. Thomas, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 13 Nov.
1770. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 10 June.
1772. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 24 Feb.

GILDEN MORDEN—*continued.*

Marriages.

1750. Tempest Sell, of Bassingbourne, and Mary Leete, of this Parish, 24 Sept.

Burials.

1731. Sarah, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 9 Apr.
1739. Simeon, son of Simeon and Mary Leete.
1769. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 2 Aug.

1774. John, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 18 July.
1777. Simeon Leete, gent., 28 Sept.
1778. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 23 Aug.
1779. Mary Leete, gentlewoman, 10 Mar.
1797. William, son of Thomas and Ann Leete, 27 Jan.
1797. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, of Shingay, 5 Aug.
1798. Edith, wife of Mr. Simeon Sell, of Bassingbourne, 12 Aug.
1798. Thomas, son of Thomas and Ann Leete, 14 July.
1802. Thomas Leete, of Barkway, farmer, 19 Dec.
1807. Sarah, dau. of Simeon Leete, 29 Jan.
1807. Simeon Leete, Sen^r, farmer, 28 Oct.

GILDEN MORDEN—*continued.*

- 1774. William, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 24 June.
- 1775. John, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 2 June.
- 1776. Jackey Leete, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete,
11 Nov.
- 1778. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 22 June.
- 1781. Ann, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 12 August.

Marriages.

- 1755. John Dix and Tabitha Leete, 10 Nov.
- 1781. Simon Sell and Edith Leete, 4 June.

Burials.

- 1770. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 2 Aug.
- 1775. John, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 18 July.
- 1777. Simeon Leete, Sen^r, 28 Sept.
- 1778. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 23 Aug.
Simeon Leete, Churchwarden.

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REGISTERS.

BARRINGTON.

Baptisms.

Marriages.

Burials.

GRANCHESTER.

Baptisms.

Marriages.

Burials.

BARRINGTON.

Baptisms.

1718. Edward, son of William and Mary Leete, 20 July.
1719. Elizabeth, dau. of William and Mary Leete, 2 Mar.

Marriages.

1773. William Northrap and Elizabeth Leete, 29 June.

Burials.

1719. Elizabeth Leete, 6 March.
1735. William Leett, 25 March.
1742. Samuel, son of Mary Leete, widow, 24 June.
1742. Elizabeth, dau. of Mary Leete, widow, 14 July.
1750. Mary Leet, widow, 30 Nov.

GRANCHESTER.

Baptisms.

- 1748-9. William, son of Simeon and Pheeby Leet, 29 Jan.
1751-2. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Phebe Leet, 31 Mar.
1753. Samuel Leet, 29 May.
1755. Simeon, son of Simeon and Phebe Leet, 21 Dec.
1757. John, son of Simeon and Phebe Leet, 15 May.
1758. Phebe, dau. of Simeon and Phebe Leete, 22 Oct.
1760. Edward, son of Simeon and Phebe Leete, 23 Mar.

Marriages.

1770. Thomas Day, batchelor, and Mary Leete, spinster, both
of this Parish, 23 Oct.
1778. John Criswell, bachelor, and Phebe Leet, spinster, both
of this Parish, 9 Nov.

Burials.

- 1750-1. William, son of *William* and Pheeby Leet, 11 Oct.

GRANCHESTER—*continued.*

COMBERTON.

Baptisms.

Burials.

WILLINGHAM.

Baptisms.

GRANCHESTER—*continued*.

- 1754. Samuel Leet, 3 Feb.
- 1756. Simeon Leet, an infant, of this Parish, 18 Jan.
- 1758. John Leet, 27 July.
- 1760. Edward Leete, a child, of this Parish, 12 Oct.
- 1782. Simeon Leete, 13 July.
- 1795-6. Phebe Leete, 24 March.

COMBERTON.

Baptisms.

- 1736. Duckett, son of Duckett and Eleanor Leete, his wife,
14 Oct.
- 1737. Eleanor, dau. of Duckett and Eleanor Leete, 23 Apr.
- 1739. Mary, dau. of Duckett Leet and Ann Jeaps, 27 Jan.

Burials.

- 1737. Eleanor, dau. of Duckett Leete and Eleanor, his wife,
31 Jan.

WILLINGHAM.

Baptisms.

- 1620. Thomas, son of Thomas Leate, 2 Apr.
- 1645. Mary and Ann, daus. of John and Mary Leet, bap.
27 Feb.
- 1650. Ann Leete, dau. of John and Ann Leete, his wife,
18 Aug.
- 1651. Thomas, son of John Leete, and Anne his wife, 10 Mar.
- 1662. Dinah and Judith, daus. of John and Ann Leete, 21 Oct.
- 1665. William, son of John Leet, and Ann his wife, 7 May.
- 1667. Joan, dau. of John Leet and Ann his wife, 1 Sep.
- 1691. Sarah, dau. of William and Jane Leet, Aug.

WILLINGHAM—*continued.*

Marriages.

Burials.

WILLINGHAM—*continued.*

- 1692. William, son of William and Ann Leet, 2 Oct.
- 1701. Ann, dau. of William and Ann Leet, 24 Dec.
- 1703. Ann, dau. of William Leet, 14 Apr.
- 1705. Judith, dau. of William Leet, 15 Aug.
- 1709. Thomas, son of William and Ann Leet, 26 Sept.
- 1719. William, son of William and Mary Leet, 28 Sept.
- 1723. Stephen and Jane, son and dau. of William and Mary
Leet, 22 Nov.
- 1732. Agnes, dau. of John and Agnes Leet, 25 Sept.
- 1736. Mary-Isaak, dau. of John and Mary Leet, 27 Sept.
- 1738. Sarah, dau. of William and Mary Leet, 31 Dec.
- 1743. Jane-King, dau. of John and Mary Leet, 15 May.

Marriages.

- 1645. John Leet and Mary Bentley, 11 May.
- 1690. William Leet and Ann Argent, 7 Oct.
- 1717. William Leet and Mary Hills, 18 Apr.
- 1732. John Leet and Agnes Leet, 16 Apr.

Burials.

- 1645. Mary and Ann, daus. of John and Mary Leet, 27 Feb.
- 1646. Mary, wife of John Leet, 5 Feb.
- 1647. Ellen, wife of John Leet, 18 Jan.
- 1662. Judith, dau. of John Leet, 14 Feb.
- 1682. Judith Leet, 24 Aug.
- 1686. Thomas Leet, 28 Nov.
- 1690. John Leet, 19 Mar.
- 1701. Ann, dau. of William Leet, 29 Dec.
- 1705. Judith, dau. of William Leet, 21 July.
- 1732. Agnes Leet, wife of John Leet, 3 Oct.

WILLINGHAM—*continued.*

THERFIELD.

Baptisms.

1801. John, son of James and Sarah Leet, privately bap.
29 Dec.
1804. William, son of James and Sarah Leet, privately bap.
17 July.
1805. William, son of James and Sarah Leet, bap. 25 Aug.
1808. Kerenhappuch, dau. of James and Sarah Leet, 1 Feb.
1808. Robert, son of Simeon and Catherine Leet, 25 Dec.
1809. Reuben, son of James and Sarah Leet, 8 Oct.
1810. Simeon, son of Simeon and Catherine Leete, 25 Nov.
1812. Joseph, son of James and Sarah Leete, 24 May.
1812. Charles, son of Simeon and Catherine Leete, 29 Nov.

Marriages.

1721. Samuel Leet and Elizabeth Bangley, 1 May.

Burials.

1804. William, infant son of James and Sarah Leete, 31 July.
1808. Kerenhappuch, dau. of James and Sarah Leete, 3 Oct.
1811. Simeon, son of Simeon Leete, 17 Dec.
1812. Sarah Leete, wife of James Leete, 19 Mar.
1812. Charles Leete, 17 Dec.

WILLINGHAM—*continued*.

- 1732. Agnes Leet, an infant, 9 Oct.
- 1734. John Leet, 30 Mar.
- 1740. Jane Leet, 8 Mar.
- 1740. William Leet, 17 Oct.
- 1743. Jane-King Leet, 28 July.
- 1748. Anne Leet, 2 Nov.
- 1748. John Leet, 7 Dec.
- 1759. Mary Leet, widow, 4 Oct.

THERFIELD.

Baptisms.

Marriages.

Burials.

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REGISTERS.

TRUMPINGTON.

Baptisms.

Marriages.

COTTENHAM.

Baptisms.

Marriages.

Burials.

TRUMPINGTON.

Baptisms.

1733. William Leat, son of William Leat and Elizabeth his wife, 25 Dec.

Marriages.

1736. Samuel Livermore and Elizabeth Leat, 4 Jan.

COTTENHAM.

Baptisms.

1735. Matthew, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 31 Jan.
1737. Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 22 Aug.
1739. Jane and Ann, daus. of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 31 Aug.
1746. Thomas, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 28 July.
1752. Thomas, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 6 Oct.
1761. Mary, dau. of Matthew and Mary Leet, 29 Aug.
1763. Thomas, son of Matthew and Mary Leet, 1 Feb.
1765. Jane, dau. of Matthew and Mary Leet, 14 Oct.
1767. Sarah, dau. of Matthew and Mary Leet, 18 Nov.
1770. Anne, dau. of Matthew and Mary Leet, 11 June.
1773. Matthew, son of Matthew and Mary Leete, 4 Feb.
1774. Elizabeth, dau. of Matthew and Mary Leete, 15 May.
1777. Matthew, son of Matthew and Mary Leete, 2 Jan.

Marriages.

1735. Thomas Leet and Elizabeth Wayman, 14 April.

Burials.

1737. Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 23 Aug.
1740. Ann, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 10 Dec.

COTTENHAM—*continued.*

Extracts from Register of Dckington,

From the Cole MSS., Brit. Mus.

- 1561. Anne, dau. of William Leet, bap.
 - 1573. Robert Leet, bur. 12 Nov.
 - 1573. Alse Leet, bur. 25 Jan.
 - 1573. John Leet, bur. 27 Jan.
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COTTENHAM—*continued.*

- 1741. Jane, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 21 July.
 - 1749. Thomas, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Leet, 21 July.
 - 1753. Thomas, son of Matthew and Mary Leet, 31 Jan.
 - 1771. Elizabeth Leete, widow, 6 Apr.
 - 1774. Jane, dau. of Matthew and Mary Leet, 13 Nov.
 - 1778. Matthew, son of Matthew and Mary Leet, 23 Aug.
-

Eversden.

Eversden is inseparably linked in genealogical annals with the name of Leete, or we may reverse the order of the connection, and say that the name of Leete has been handed down to us associated in public records of the family history with the name of Eversden.

The place is situated about five miles, in a south-westerly direction, from the world-famed university town of Cambridge.

It was my good fortune, when I visited the ancestral spot, to have for my guide the present vicar of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Yorke. This gentleman had known well the last male representative of the Leetes, who had been born at Eversden, and had there lived all through his honourable career of 84 years.

Old William Leete was visited in 1864 by my antiquarian friend, Mr. Charles Bridger, but in the course of the following year he died. Like so many of his ancestors, he had filled in this same parish church the respected office of Warden. The advertisement of his death in the *Times* was thus given:—

“On the 17th April, 1865, at Little Eversden, William Leete, Esq., aged 84. He was the oldest inhabitant of the parish, and had been Churchwarden for more than 50 years.”

He came of a long-lived stock. The pedigree shows that his grandfather was born at Eversden in 1699, and lived to the patriarchal age of 94. His father, Charles, was born in 1742, and died at the age of 81.

Thus, from the birth of the grandfather, Duckett Leete, in 1699, to the death of his grandson William, in 1865, we have the long intervening period of 166 years for three generations.

A niece of William Leete, daughter of his brother Charles, lived with her uncle during the latter years of his life.

In 1864 she was married to Mr. Henry James King, a farmer at Eversden. She is the only person now living at Eversden who was born a Leete; but with the change from her maiden to her married name has disappeared from the current annals of the Parish of Eversden the once familiar ancestral name.

My researches into the family history did not commence until 1864, just one year prior to the death of William Leete, so that during his life-

time I had not suspected what important knowledge this oldest inhabitant of Eversden could have communicated to me as to the occupations and places of residence of our ancestors.

Probably he treasured in his memory the traditions of the Leete race from the time when John, whose farm comprised the lands of the Abbots of St. Alban's, to Gyles, his grandson, who possessed estates at Toft, Kingston and Eversden.

Failing such a guide to ancient landmarks, I had to be content with a visit to the memorials known to the present generation.

The old church and its graveyard possess a few monumental records of the family, one of which bears the following inscription :—

Sacred
to the memory of
LYDIA LEETE
who was born at the Quarry Farm
in this parish
and died at Bridge Street, Westminster
August **xxii** **MDCCCLIV**
aged **LXXVI.**
By her will she gave to the poor of this parish
Three hundred pounds Consols
The interest of which
To be given away at Christmas in clothing and fuel
also to
Addenbrooke's Hospital at Cambridge
One hundred pounds Consols
on condition
That one patient be admitted annually
from this parish, free of expense.

I went to see the Quarry Farm, and found the old place fast dropping into decay. It struck me on examination that it was to this Quarry Farm House my cousin Charlotte, the oldest member of the generation to which I belong, had been sent as a child. She remembers that a Mr. Leete, of Eversden, used to visit her mother, who was living at Cambridge, and when she went to Eversden it was to a house where there was a large balcony. Probably the aspect of a large quarry at the back of the farm-house, with its overhanging grass and shrubs, suggesting the oft-repeated caution to the child not to venture too near the edge of such a precipice, had indelibly fixed itself on her infantile memory.

I have brought this fact prominently forward to show that, within the memory of my first cousin, who is still living, the family connection between the Leetes of Eversden and those of Royston was kept up.

Lydia Leete's brother, Robert, was celebrated for his powers as a singer, as is shown by the notice of his death in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (*vide* page 106).

His portrait is now in the possession of the family of Piggott, connections by marriage, who inherited at Lydia Leete's death the bulk of her fortune.

It was to her that John Leete, a solicitor of London, addressed the interesting letter given in page 19. I was shown also by the Rev. Mr. Yorke the house of the late William Leete, and walked with him through the extensive orchard of greengage-trees which William had cultivated with marked success during his life-time.

We called at the house of Mrs. King (old William's niece), and had some pleasant conversation with her.

My reverend friend and his wife gave me and my boys a hearty welcome to lunch, at the conclusion of which I had the satisfaction of examining the old and well-worn Parish Register, wherein are recorded in its earliest pages, dating back to 1573, the births, marriages and deaths of our ancestors.

I ought not to conclude these notes without calling attention to the fact that Simeon Leete, an uncle of my great-grandfather Robert, settled at Gilden Morden, a century and a half ago, and there became the founder of an important branch of the existing Leete family. Some of his descendants are still associated with the place, and others are settled in various parts of Cambs, Beds and Herts.

My grandfather and grandmother interchanged frequent friendly visits with the Gilden Morden Leetes; but this intimacy appears to have ceased in the latter half of my late father's life-time.

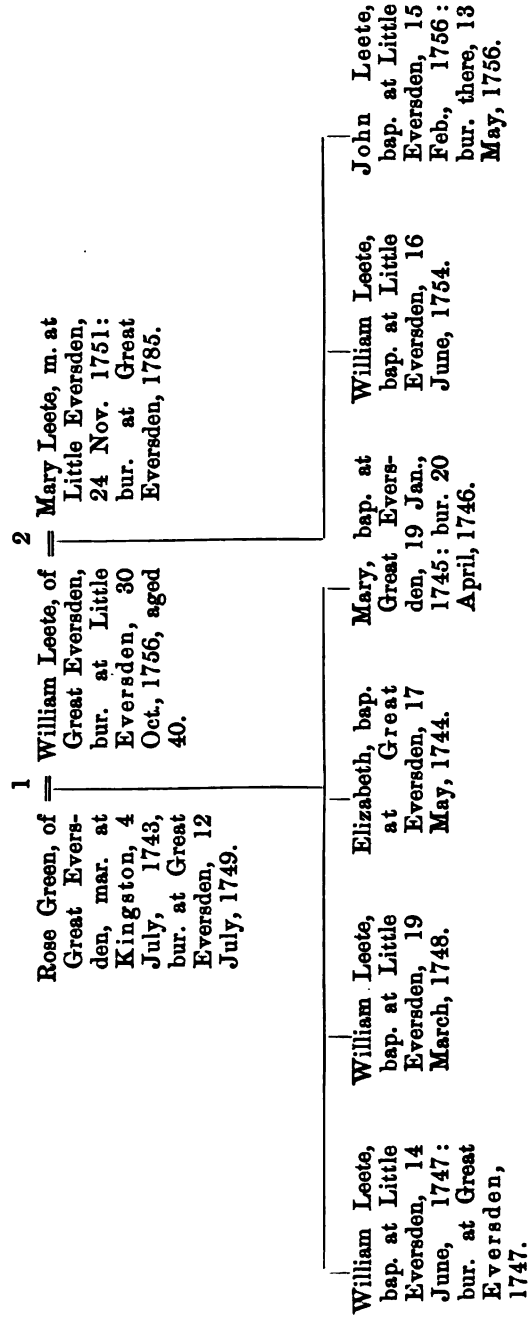
The facts are in all probability not known to the living generation, and it needs now the help of such a record as this to show the close kinship there was between the Royston and the Gilden Morden branches of the Leetes of Eversden, when they had for their chief representatives my great-grandfather Robert, who died in 1806, and Simeon of Gilden Morden, who died in 1777.—*Note by J. L.*

CHAPTER III.

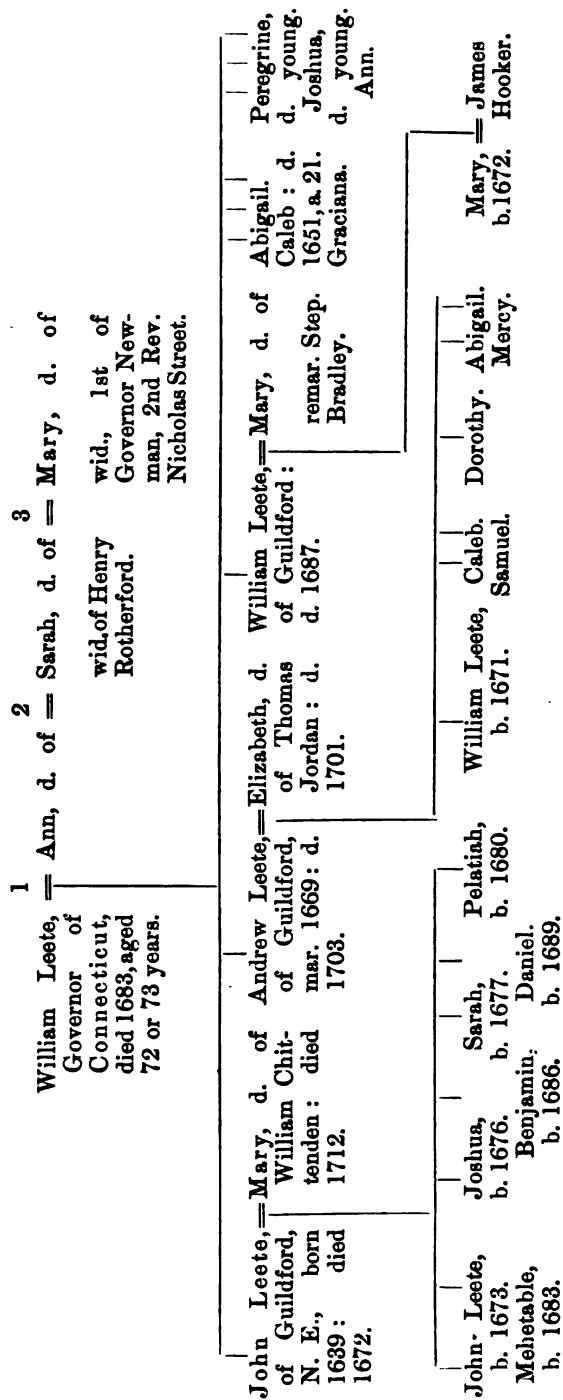


Genealogical.

Genealogical.



PEDIGREE OF WILLIAM LEETE, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT.



NOTES TO GOVERNOR LEETE'S PEDIGREE.

"William Leete came to New England with Eaton and Hopkins in 1637. He signed the Plantation Covenant of New Haven Colony, 1st June, 1639, was an Assistant there for fifteen years, from 1643 to 1657; Deputy Governor in 1658, and Governor from 1661 to 1665. On the union of the Colony with Connecticut he was chosen an Assistant, and in 1669 Deputy Governor. On the decease of Winthrop, in 1676, he succeeded him as Governor, and was annually re-elected to that office until his death, in 1683. When the regicides, Goffe and Whalley, sought refuge in New England, in 1660, Leete exerted himself for their protection."—Editorial note to the Winthrop Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections, 4th series, vol. 7, which contains many of Leete's letters, with a fac-simile of his signature, and a copy of his seal.

Leit, Wm., Esq., Gov. Con^t Col., dyed Apr. 16, 1683. Entry in Note Book of Judge Sewell.—*New Eng. Hist. & Gen^l Register*, vol. 8, p. 19.

Leete (April, 1683). Died, the Hon. Wm. Leet, Gov^r of Connecticut in y^e 72 or 73 year of his age. Tho' he was ancient, yet had it pleased God he might have continued many years. His death is an awfull breach, espec. at this juncture.—From *Bradstreet's Journal*. The same, vol. 9, 51.

*The following interesting Letter was posted in America on the
3rd of February, 1866.*

GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY,
CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES.

To the RECTOR OF THE PARISH OF
KEYSTON, HUNTS., ENGLAND.

REV. SIR,—I hope you will excuse the necessity which forces me to apply to you, to obtain information, as I suppose, from your parish.

Gov^r. William Leete, who was one of the most worthy of the founders of New England, came from Keyston (or Keystone), the last place of his residence in England, in 1639, to Guilford, and I have supposed it to have been the place of his birth. He was born about 1611, and was married to a wife, in England, whose Christian name was Anne — (I do not know her other name), before he left England, but his eldest child, John Leete, was the first white person born in this place.

He was a man of education, "bred a lawyer, and was a Registrar or Clerk of the Bishop's (I suppose of Ely's) Court, at Cambridge," where he became a Puritan, and joined a company of young men who came with Rev. Henry Whitfield, who had been Rector of Okely, in Surry, from London to Guilford, 1639. They were all *young* men, of education, and formed a little community here by themselves, for a while, entirely *independent*.

The magistrate of their Municipality was Samuel Disborow, Esq., the 5th son of James Disborow, Esq., of Eltisley, in Cambridgeshire, and was a brother of John Disborow, who married Jane, sister of the Protector, Oliver Cromwell.

Our Samuel Disborow was born at Eltisley, Nov. 30th, 1619, and returned to England 1651. He was soon after a Member of Parliament for Mid Lothian, in Scotland, and in 1656 became Keeper of the Great Seal for Scotland, which office he held until the Restoration, when he retired to his Manor in Ellsworth, Cambridgeshire.

Another of this company, Rev. John Hoadley, born at Rolvenden, in Kent, Jan. 10th, 1616-17, afterwards returned to England 1654, and was a Chaplain to General Monck, and was the grandfather of Rev. Benjⁿ. Hoadley, Bishop successively of Bangor, Litchfield, Salisbury and Winchester.

But it is of Governor *William Leete* of whom I wish to enquire. On the 13th of April, 1639, he executed an agreement, by indenture, with one Edward Jones, a resident of Northamptonshire, in which the latter agreed to serve Mr. Leete, in New England, for which they were about embarking, three years as a house builder. In this instrument Mr. Leete describes himself as "of Keystone, Hunts.," &c. This paper I found recently, among the papers of the Massachusetts Hist. Soc., at Boston.

Subsequently, I find Gov^r. Leete connected with an ancient Bill of Exchange, drawn in favour of a Mr. John Leete, probably a relative of Gov^r. Leete, of Midlow, an adjoining parish to Keystone, I think, in Huntingdonshire. This Bill of Exchange was dated the 27th of September, 1666.

Mr. William Leete was the first Secretary or Clerk of Guilford, and afterwards was Clerk and then Magistrate of our Court, then Clerk or Secretary of the Court and Colony of New Haven. Subsequently he was Lieut.-Gov^r and Gov^r of that Jurisdiction.

After the union of New Haven with Connecticut, Mr. Leete became one of the Council, then Lieut.-Gov^r, and afterwards Governor of the United Colony, which office he held until his death, April 16th, 1683.

He was also, for a long time, President of the Congress of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England.

In all these important trusts he evinced the highest wisdom, coolness, and discretion, through a period of our early existence, rendered eminently perilous by the Indian wars of King Philip of Pokanoket.

I wish for information respecting Gov^r Leete, his origin, birth, or baptism, and his family origin, and marriage, purely for historical and biographical purposes. I have spent some time in preparing a history of the town of Guilford, and I have undertaken to write an article on the life and character of Gov^r Leete.

Gov^r Leete left a numerous family of descendants, who have, many of them, been distinguished in New England.

The recent publication of the Winthrop family papers, which contain many new letters of Gov^r Leete, has given an additional interest to his life and character.

I hope I shall not cause you any additional or especial inconvenience, by this request, and if you will furnish such information as you may have at hand, or on your parish records, I shall esteem it a great favour, or any information relative to the points indicated will be gratefully received.

You can hardly conceive the deep interest, which we feel on this side of the Atlantic, in all matters of local interest connected with our derivation from the mother country.

Among the companions of William Leete were two brothers, William Stone and John Stone, of nearly his own age, I suppose from your shire.

I would send *postage* but cannot. Please direct to me at Guilford, postage *not* prepaid.

Very respectfully, your obedient Servant,

RALPH D. SMITH.

Should I be able to reciprocate the favour asked in America I shall be happy.

GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY,
CONNECTICUT, U.S., *Aug. 27th*, 1875.

MR. JOSEPH LEETE,

SIR,—Your letter of 19th June, addressed to my father-in-law, Ralph D. Smith, Esq., is herewith acknowledged. It would have gratified him exceedingly to have received it, as he took the greatest interest in tracing out the genealogies of the old families of Guilford, and was especially interested in all that concerned the Leete family,—but his labors ceased on the 11th of September last. He has left a large number of historical and genealogical manuscripts, some of which I shall try to have printed as soon as I can secure time to edit the same. With the view of satisfying the demand here, it is possible that we will publish next year a volume with the title "Contributions to the History of Guilford." I copy from this work the notice it contains of Gov. Leete for your use. In his Genealogy of Guilford families, he gives Gov. Leete's descendants with great minuteness, numbering *hundreds*, but seems to have been foiled in tracing his ancestors.

I shall be very happy to hear from you on the points mentioned in Mr. Smith's letter, and to supply such information as may be desired by you, so far as practicable

It may be pleasant to know that the Leete's, although numerous, are highly esteemed for their inflexible honesty and integrity.

Very respectfully,

Your obed^t. servant,

LEWIS H. STEINER.

Subjoined is the Notice of Gov. Leete referred to in the foregoing Letter.

"William Leete, also one of the first settlers of the town and one of the pillars of Mr. Whitfield's Church, received the highest honors which the Colony of New Haven and, after the union of that Colony with Connecticut, which the united government could give. He was bred to the law in England, and served as a clerk for a considerable time in the Bishop's Court at Cambridge, where, observing the oppression and cruelties then practised on the conscientious and virtuous Puritans, he was led to examine more

thoroughly their doctrines and practice, and eventually to become a Puritan himself, and to give up his office. Coming over to New England with Mr. Whitfield, he enjoyed his religion, and had an opportunity to serve his brethren in his station, for which his abilities and education happily fitted him. From 1651 until 1658 he was the Magistrate of the Town, and one of the Court of Magistrates for the Jurisdiction of the New Haven Colony for a much longer period. In 1658 he was chosen Deputy-Governor, and continued in that office until 1661, when he was elected Governor of the Colony, which dignity he held until the union with Connecticut in 1664. Upon this union he was elected Magistrate, and then in Connecticut, from 1669 until 1676, Deputy-Governor, when he was chosen Governor, which office he held until his death. 'For forty years,' says Doctor Trumbull, 'he was Magistrate, Deputy-Governor, or Governor of one or other of the Colonies. In both Colonies he presided in times of the greatest difficulty, yet always conducted himself with such integrity and wisdom as to meet the public approbation.' He was the Chief Magistrate of the County Court of New Haven County after its formation in 1664, and held that office until his removal to Hartford on his election to the office of Governor. After that time he remained there, managing the affairs of the government of the whole Colony until his death, April 16, 1683, full of days and full of honors. His tombstone was discovered somewhere about 1830, on removing some earth that had been allowed to accumulate in the ancient burial yard of that place.

"Governor Leete left a numerous family in Guilford, where many of his descendants still remain, while others have removed to other parts of the State. His eldest son John, who died Nov. 25, 1692, aged about 53, is said to have been the first white person born in Guilford. * * * The stone cellar in which the Governor kindly secreted and nourished Generals Whalley and Goffe (the regicides) still remains. It is on the west side of the Borough, near the bank of West River, and is on the property formerly owned by Timothy Stone, Esq., and now by his daughters."

From R. D. Smith's *MSS. History of Guilford*.

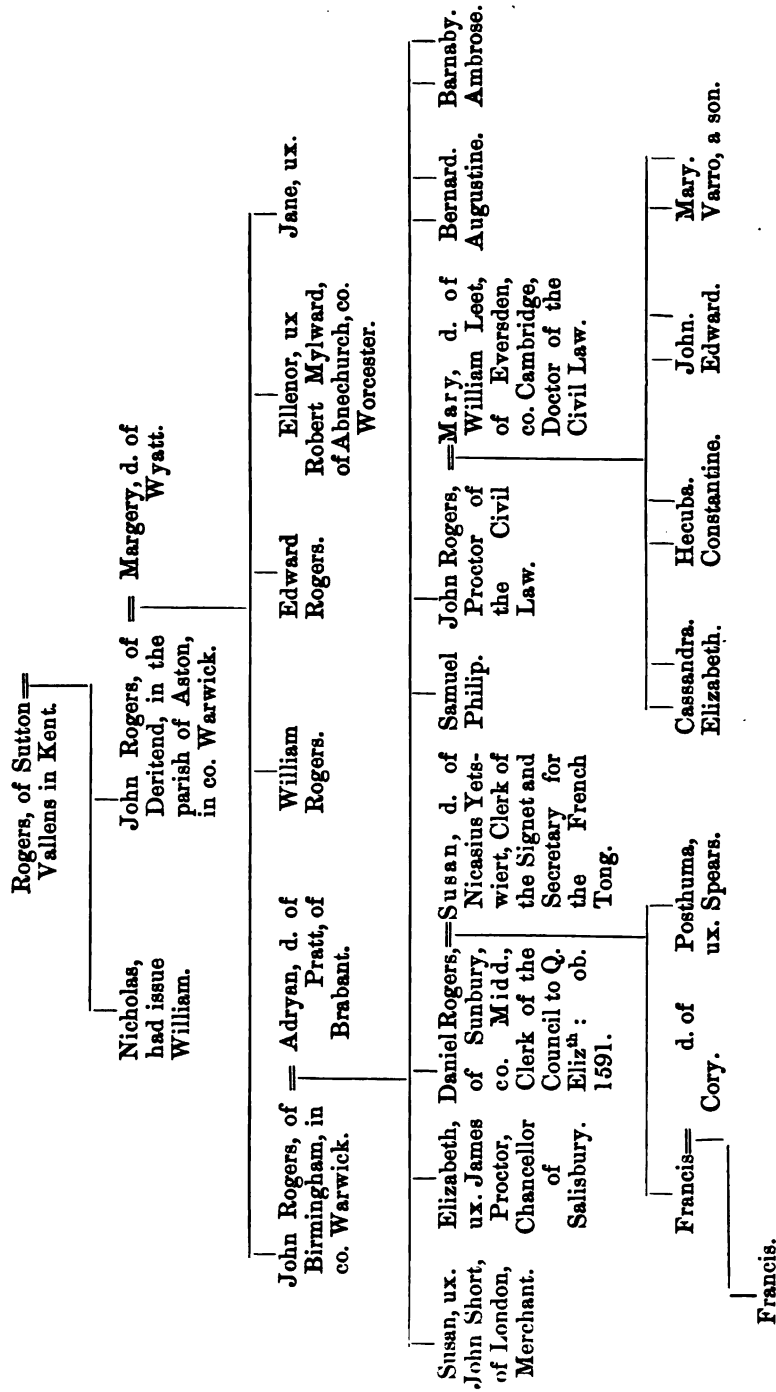
Signature and Seal of
Governor Leete,

John Leete:



PEDIGREE OF ROGERS,

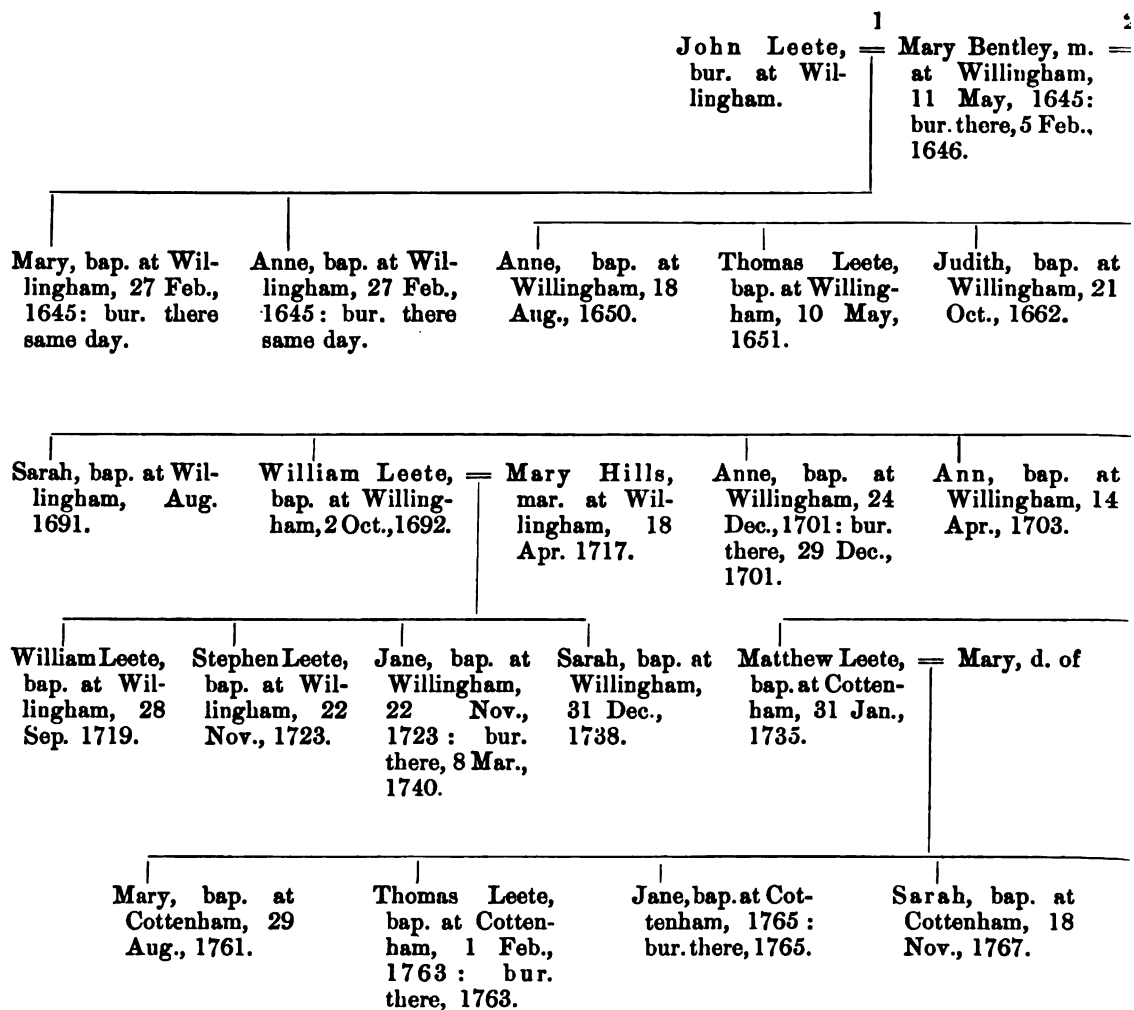
From *Harl. MS.*, 1563, and *Harl. MS.*, 1551.



NOTE ABOUT THE ROGERS PEDIGREE.

Though there is no mention of the Marian Protomartyr in the pedigree, there can be no doubt that the John who is recorded as marrying Adryan Pratt was that celebrated and great and good man. The question is fully discussed in Colonel Chester's life of the martyr.

Of the eight children of John Rogers the son and Mary Leet, it may be assumed that five of them died in infancy, as three only are mentioned in the will of Flower Leete, their grandmother; these are Elizabeth, John and Cassandra. A Cassandra Rogers is found to have married into the Sussex family of Saris, and from its being a very uncommon name, we may fairly identify the one with the other.



Ellen, d. of ³ = Anne, d. of

Dinah, bap. at Willingham, 21 Oct, 1662.	William Leete, bap. at Willingham, 7 May, 1665: bur. there, 17 Oct., 1740. Will at Peterborough.	= Ann Argent, mar. at Willingham, Oct. 7, 1690: bur. there, 2 Nov., 1748.	Joan, bap. at Willingham, 1 Sep., 1667.	Judith, bap. at Willingham, 24 Aug., 1682.
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Judith, bap. at Willingham, 15 Aug., 1705: bur. there.	Thomas Leete, bap. at Willingham, 26 Sep., 1709.	= Elizabeth, Wayman, mar. at Cottenham, 14 Apr., 1735.	John Leete, mar. at Willingham, 16 Apr., 1732: bur. there, 30 Mar., 1734.	= Agnes Leet, bur. at Willingham, 3 Oct., 1732.
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Elizabeth, bap. at Cottenham, 22 Aug., 1737: bur. there, 1737.	Jane, bap. at Cottenham, 31 Aug., 1739: bur. there, 1740.	Ann, bap. at Cottenham, 31 Aug., 1739: bur. there, 1741.	Thomas Leete, bap. at Cottenham, 28 July, 1746: bur. there, 1749.	Thomas Leete, bap. at Cottenham, 6 Oct., 1752.	Agnes Leet, bap. at Willingham, 25 Sep., 1732: bur. there, Oct. 9, 1732.
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Anne, bap. at Cottenham, 11 June, 1770.	-	Matthew, bap. at Cottenham, 1773.	Elizabeth, bap. at Cottenham, 1774.	Matthew Leete, bap. at Cottenham, 1777: bur. 1778.
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John Leete, of = Mary, d. of
 Willingham :
 bur. there,
 1748.

Mary Isaac, bap.
 at Willingham,
 1736.

Jane-King, bap.
 at Willingham,
 1743 : bur.
 there, 1743.

Simeon Leete, of = Phebe, d. of
 Granchester :
 bur. there, 13
 July, 1782.

bur. at Gran-
 chester, 24
 Mar., 1795.

William Leete,
 bap. at Gran-
 chester, 29
 Jan., 1748 :
 bur. there, 11
 Oct., 1750.

Mary, bap. at
 Granchester,
 31 Mar.,
 1751 : mar.
 there, 1770,
 Thomas Day.

Samuel Leete,
 bap. at Gran-
 chester, 29
 May, 1753 :
 bur. there, 3
 Feb., 1754.

John Leete,
 bap. at Gran-
 chester, 15
 May, 1757 :
 bur. there, 27
 July, 1758.

Simeon Leete,
 bap. at Gran-
 chester, 21
 Dec., 1755 :
 bur. there, 18
 July, 1756.

Phebe, bap. at
 Granchester,
 1758 : mar.
 there, 1778,
 to John Cris-
 well.

Edward Leete,
 bap. at Gran-
 chester, 23
 Mar., 1760 :
 bur. there, 12
 Oct., 1760.

William Leete, of Barrington, bur. there 25 March, 1735. Lett. of Adm. granted at Peterborough. = Mary, dau. of bur. at Barrington, 30 Nov., 1750.

Edward Leete, bap. at Barrington, 20 July, 1718.

Elizabeth, bap. at Barrington, 2 Mar., 1719.

Samuel Leete, bur. at Barrington, 24 June, 1742.

Elizabeth, bur. at Barrington, 14 July, 1742.

Simeon Leete = Sarah, d. of bur. at Little Eversden, 1812.

Simeon Leete, bur. at Little Eversden, 1796.

William Leete, bur. at Little Eversden, 1800.

William Baker, Esq., = Miss Anne Leete, of
M.D. Cambridgeshire.

Richard Baker = Catherine, only dau. of
Wm. Richards, M.D.

Richard Westbrook Baker, Esq.,
High Sheriff of Rutlandshire
in 1842-3.

See Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

William Leet = Alice Wingfield, heiress
of the Letheringham
branch of the Wing-
fields.

Richard Willis = Margaret, only
surviving child.

Richard Wingfield Willis, sold
the last remnant of the
Letheringham Estates before
1811.

See Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

Nicholas Leatt, of
Horksley, co.
Derby.

Nicholas Leatt, Citizen and
Ironmonger, and sometime
Alderman of London : was
Capt. in the City Train
Bands. Will proved 1631.

Richard Leatt,=
Citizen and
Ironmonger,
born in Thread-
needle Street :
Will proved
1635.

Huett Leatt,
Citizen and
Ironmonger :
was Master of
that Co. 1659 :
born in Thread-
needle Street :
Adm. granted
to his sister
Judith 1660.

.....
=
John Wyld,
Capt. in the
City Train
Bands.

.....
=
Henry Hunt

Elizabeth.

Judith, died
unmar. Adm.
grant^d to her
sister Eliza-
beth 1674-5.

Jane, died un-
mar. Adm.
grant^d to her
sister Eliza-
beth 1674-5.

NICHOLAS LEATT.

NICHOLAS LEATT, Alderman of London, whose pedigree is here given, was an influential and highly-respected member of the Company of Ironmongers ; he served the office of Master in 1616, 1626, and again, in consequence of the demise of Mr. William Canning, during part of the year 1627. But few particulars of his life and connections have been discovered. His will, dated the 3rd of June, 1631, was proved towards the end of that month in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.* By this instrument he appoints his two sons, Richard and Hewett Leatt, his executors, and directs that the residue of his whole estate, of what description soever, on this side or beyond the seas, should be equally divided between them, after the payment of his debts, such legacies as he had previously acquainted them with, and the sum of 1,000 nobles to each of his unmarried daughters, Elizabeth, Judith and Jane ; and further appoints his sons-in-law, John Wyld and Henry Hunt, and his cousin, Ralph Handson, overseers of his said will.

Nicholas Leatt was one of the Captains of the City Trainbands, as was his son-in-law, John Wyld, who is noticed hereafter.

A grant of the following arms to Mr. Nicholas Leatt, dated the 13th December, 1616, is entered in the books of the Heralds' College :—Argent, on a fesse gules betw. three fire balls sable, from each flames proper, a lion passant or. Crest, on a mural crown or a fire-beacon sable, with fire proper, between two wings azure.

This coat, impaling argent, a cross voided of the field between four mullets or stars of eight points sable, appears on the portrait of this worthy merchant, which was presented to the Company by his two sons shortly after his decease, and now forms one of the embellishments of their Court-room.

* See Abstract, p. 92.

The following petition for setting up the effigies of the Kings and Queens of England in the Royal Exchange was presented to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen by Mr. Nicholas Leat in 1610, and has been preserved in the records of the Corporation :—

To the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Cambell, Lord Maior, and the worshipfull th' aldemen his brethren.

Right ho. and worshipfull. Whereas that worthie citizen Sir Thomas Gresham deceased, of famous memory, did build for the honor of this Cittie, and necessarie use of merchants, that royall monument called the Royall Exchange, whoe, being cutt off by untimely death, left a part thereof unperformed, that is, xxx pictures of Kings and Queenes of this land, and to that purpose the said Sir Thomas Gresham left thirty roomes to place them in.

Wherefore it may please your honour and worships to give way that an act of a common counsell may be made that, because soe worthy a worke may not be left unfynished, it may be enacted that every cittizen that hereafter shalbe elected Alderman, and shall agree or compounde to be, suspended for a fyne or otherwaies, that before that cittizen so chosen shalbe cleered of all elections hereafter by the comon counsell, that he shalbe enjoyned to pay the charge of making and fynishing one of the foresaid Kings or Queenes theire pictures, to be erected in the places beforesaid in the Exchange, not exceeding 100 nobles; the pictures to be graven on wood, covered with lead and then gilded and paynted in oyle cullers; and for modellis or patterns, because this honorable cittie and worshipfull Company of Mercers doe receive good benefitts whereby that they make each of them at their charges, which will be a thing both memorable and honorable, and noe man wronged.

NICHOLAS LEATE

Court of Aldermen, 10 May, 8 Jac. I^o, 1610.

The petition was referred by the Court of Aldermen to the Court of Common Council, that such order might be taken therein as should by them be thought fitting; but whether the proposition of Mr. Leat was adopted in all its details we have not been able to discover. It is nevertheless clear that the effigies of the

Sovereigns of England were set up in the first Exchange, as their destruction in the Fire of London in 1666 is mentioned by Strype and other writers.

A further notice of Mr. Nicholas Leat, equally demonstrative of his good taste and public feeling, is found in two of the principal writers of his own period on the subject of horticulture. Gardens were cultivated in England at an early period, and Fitz Stephen, who flourished about the time of Henry the Second, informs us that those citizens who dwelt in the suburbs of London had large and beautiful gardens surrounding their villas; but we elsewhere learn that these *paradisi* of our ancestors contained scarcely anything besides a few useful herbs and medicinal plants, or a profusion of trees, frequently cut and tortured into fantastic shapes; and that gardens approximating to our present ideas, and for the cultivation of rare and beautiful flowers, scarcely existed at all in England before the reign of Elizabeth.

About that period the taste for gardening appears to have acquired a fresh impulse, and a number of elegant exotics were brought into the country by merchants and travellers from various parts of the world. Sir Walter Raleigh introduced a variety of plants from the different countries which he visited, particularly from Flanders and the South of France, also from Virginia and South America; and many persons of distinction and learning directed their attention to the subject. The most celebrated gardens (cited in a paper on Flowers and Flower Shows printed in the *Topic*, No. 15, p. 15, 1846-7) of that time were those of the Duke of Somerset at Sion House, under the care of Dr. Turner; the garden of Edward Lord Zouch, which was under the care of L'Obel; and those of Hugh Morgan, apothecary to Queen Elizabeth; of James Cole, of Highgate; of Gerarde, "in the suburb of Holborn;" and of Nicholas Leat.

The devoted attachment of Mr. Leat to horticultural pursuits, and the desire which he felt to improve the Flora of his own

country, are clearly evident from frequent and honourable mention which is made of him in the works of Gerard and Parkinson, which I prefer transcribing literally, feeling that I should scarcely stand excused by my brethren of the Court of Ironmongers, if I were to curtail these curious and interesting passages.

From *Gerard's Herbal*, edit. 1597, p. 246:—" *Cole Florie*, or after some *Colie florie*, hath many large leaves, sleightly endented about the edges, of a whitish green colour, narrower and sharper pointed than cabbage, in the midst of which leaves riseth up a great white head of hard flowers closely thrust together with a root full of strings, in other parts like unto Coleworts.

"The swollen Colewort—*Brassica Tophosa* of al other is the strangest, which I received fro a worshipfull merchant of London, Master Nicholas Lete, who brought the seeds thereof out of France, and who is greatly in love with rare and faire flowers and plants, for which he doth carefully send into Syria, having a servant there at Alepo, and in many other countries, for the which myself, and likewise the whole land, are much bound unto him. This goodly Coolewoort hath many leaves of a blewish green, or of a colour of woade, bunched or swollen up about the edges, as were a piece of leather wet and broiled on a gridiron, in such strange sort that I cannot with words describe it to the full. The flowers grow at the top of the stalkes, of a bleake yellow colour; the root is thick and strong like the other kinds of Coolewoort.

"Beetes, *Beta*. There is likewise another sort hereof that was brought unto me from beyond the seas by that courteous merchant Master Lete, before remembred, the which hath leaves very great and red of colour, as is all the rest of the plant, as well root as stalke, and flowers full of a perfect purple juice, tending to rednesse, the middle ribbe of which leaves are for the most part verie broad and thicke, like the middle part of the cabbage leaf, which is equal in goodness with leaves of cabbage being boiled. It grew with me in 1596 to the height of viij cubites, and did bring forth

his rough and uneeven seede very plentifully, with which plant Nature doth seeme to plaie and sport himself; for the seedes taken from that plant (which was altogether of one colour), and sowen, doth bring forth plants of many and variable colours, as the worshipful gentleman Master John Norden can very well testifie, unto whom I gave some of the seedes aforesaid, which in his garden brought forth many other of beautiful colours."—*Ibid.*, p. 251.

"Clove Gillo flowers. There are at the present day under the name of *Caryophyllus* comprehended divers and sundrie sorts of plants, of such variable colours, and also several shapes, that a great and large volume would not suffice to write of every one at large in particular, considering how infinite they are, and how every yeer every climate and country bringeth forth new sortes, such as have not been heretofore written of; some whereof are called Carnations, others clove gilloflowers, some sops in wine, some pagiants or pagion colour, horseflesh, blunket, purple white, double and single Gilloflowers, as also a gilloflower with yellow flowers, the which a worshipful merchant of London, Master Nicholas Lete, procured from Poland, and gave me thereof for my garden, which before that time was never seen or heard of in these countries."—*Ibid.*, p. 472.

From Parkinson's *Paradisus*, edit. 1629, p. 420. Chapter on Roses. "Some of these roses had their original, as is thought in England, as the first and second (*Rosa Anglica alba* and *Rosa incarnata*); for these dried red roses that come over to us from beyond the seas are not of the kind of our red rose, as may well be perceived by them that will compare our English dried leaves with those. Some in Germany, Spain, and Italy. Some again in Turkie, as the yellow rose, which first was procured to be brought into England by Master Nicholas Lete, a worthy merchant of London, and a great lover of flowers, from Constantinople, which (as wee hear) was first brought thither from Syria, but perished quickly both with him and with all others to whom he imparted

it; yet afterwards it was sent to Master John de Flanqueville a merchant also of London, and a great lover of all rare plants as well as flowers, from which is sprung the great store that is now flourishing in this kingdom.

Chapter on Lilies. *Lilium Persicum* (the Persian Lily). "This was, as is thought, brought from Persia into Constantinople, and from thence sent to us by the means of divers Turkie merchants, and in especiall by the procurement of Mr. Nicholas Lete, a worthy merchant, and a lover of all faire flowers."—*Ibid.*, p. 30.

1631. Mr. Richard Leatt, and Mr. Huet Leatt, exors. of the last will and test^t of Mr. Nicholas Leatt, deceased, a worthie citizen and member of this Comp^y, presented to the said Comp^y their said father's picture in oyle colour,* as a token of their love, to remain in the Hall as a remembrance of their dear deceased father, w^{ch} the Court thankfully accepted.

Mr. Huet Leat was Master in 1659.

The above account of Nicholas Leatt and the notes about his sons is from "Some Account of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers," by John Nicholl, F.S.A., a handsome quarto volume privately printed at the expense of the Company in 1866.

In the Record Office are many papers relating to Nicholas Leatt and his transactions with the Government, but they do not throw any light on his personal history.

* This portrait, now in the Court Room of the Ironmongers' Hall is described as follows:—

"Nicholas Leate, an esteemed member of the Company, and Master in the year 1616, 1626 and part of 1627, habited in a black gown, richly furred, deep ruff and ruffles, and dark beard and whiskers."

On one side of the picture are painted the words—

NICHOLAS LEATE,

Master in 1626 and 1627.

And on the other side are shown the Arms of Nicholas Leate. The crest is a Beacon-fire (a-light).

CHAPTER IV.



Wills and Administrations.

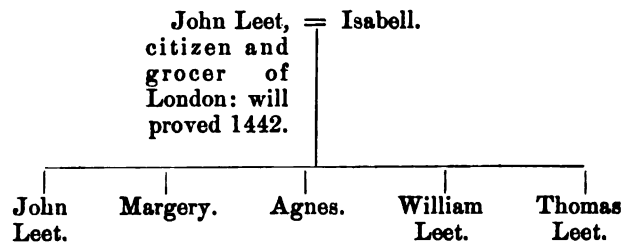
Wills and Administrations.

John Leet, citizen and grocer of London, was proved in the Prerog. Court of Cant., 1442.

Mentions:

My son John.
Margarie, my dau.
Agnes, my dau.
William, my son.
Thomas, my son.
Isabell, my wife.

Dated 8 Nov., 1442; proved, 2 Dec.



John Lete, of Cottenham, husbandman. Will dated 16 Dec., 1522; proved, 20 Feb., 1522-23.*

To be buried in ch. yard of Alhallowes, of Cottenham.

To Margaret Heynes, of Girton, my dau. Residue to my wife, my sole extrix.

John Beryman, Supervisor.

* At Peterborough.

Witnesses :—Will^m. Greene, John Willowe, John Harryson,
John Rychards the elder.

John Lete, of =
Cottenham.
Will 1522-3.

*Margaret = John Heynes,
of Girton.

Henry Lette, of Cottenham, husbandman. Will dated 29 June,
1527; proved, 4 July, 1527.†

To be buried in ch. yard of Alhallowes, in Cottenham.

To my wife, all my goods moveable and unmoveable.

Exors.;—Wife and John Bridgman.

Witnesses :—Sir Edward my gostly fader, Robert Hudson,
Richard Culton, John Henley.

Henry Lette, =
of Cottenham. Ex. and
Will. unio. leg.

Henry Leete, of Comberton. Will dated 28 Oct., 1540;
proved 20 Feb., 1540-1.†

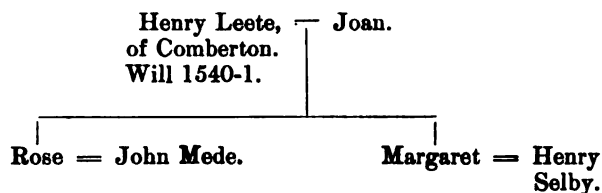
All my goods moveable and unmoveable to Johan my wife,
for her life.

After her death, to our children, that is to be understood, one
half to Rose my daughter, the wife of John Mede and their
children, the other half to Margaret Selby my daughter, the wife
of Henry Selby, and their children.

Witnesses :—John Poraje my gostlye fader felow of benet
Colledge that m̄stred to me the blessed Sacrement, and Master
John Meer gentylman beddyll, Lawrence Andrewe goldsmyth.

* The Christian name of her husband is from another source.

† Peterborough.



Edmond Leete, of Eversden. Will dated 4 Edward VI.; proved 12 Aug., 1550.*

To my father† 12 royalls and all that he hath in his custody.

To my mother 4 oxen and 2 mylche bese.

To my brother Wylliam 4 mylche bese 4 yonge bulloks and 2 shillinges.

To every one of his children 20 shillinges.

To my brother Thomas 20 qrs. of barley 3£ in money and 2 drawge steeres.

To Olyver Warneyr 40 shillinges and to his sister 40 shillinges.

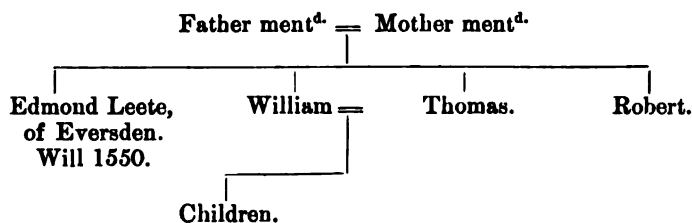
To my aunt Medew 40 shillinges among her children.

To every of my servants ten shillinges.

To every of my father's 5 shillinges a peece.

I give to 5 prestes whiche my brother Robert knoweth 10 shillinges a peece.

Residue to my brother Robert and his eyres wth all my free land y^t I bought of Mr. SeynGeorge.



* Peterborough.

† Namely, John Leete; the same who had been farmer of the parsonage at Eversden, under the Abbots of St. Albans; he was the lineal ancestor of Mr. Joseph Leete, of South Norwood Park. See full pedigree.

William Leete, of Melbourne.

Administration granted to Flower Lete, the relict, 29 June, 1560.

William Leete, = Flower.
of Melbourne,
co. Camb. Adm.
1560.

Robert Leete, of Cottenham, husbandman. Will proved 21 March, 1563.*

To Elizabeth Lonell.

To Thomas Halden and William Halden, and John Wright.

To Alice Leete my sister.

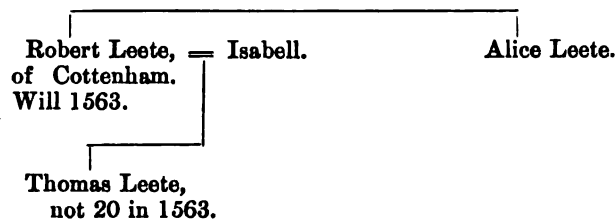
To Thomas Leete my son £10 at 20 a geldinge and iij mares &c.

"I give into the hands of Robert Mathew my surrender of my copyhold to the use of my son Thomas. If my son die, to my wife to geve and to sell, the paying to my sister £10 out of the house."

Isabell my wife my sole extrix.

Witnesses:—Robert Mayle, Thomas Halden, Edward Wymples, Rob^t Mathew.

Supervisors:—Rob^t Mayle, Rob^t Mathew.



Helen Leete, of Eversden. Administration granted to Thomas Leete, her son, 2 May, 1564. She is described as a widow.

Leete, = Helen Leete,
of Eversden, Widow,
co. Camb. Adm. 1564.

* Peterborough.

Robert Lete, of Holton, husbandman. Will dated 1 May, 1566; proved in the Prerog. Court of Cant., 1 July, 1566.

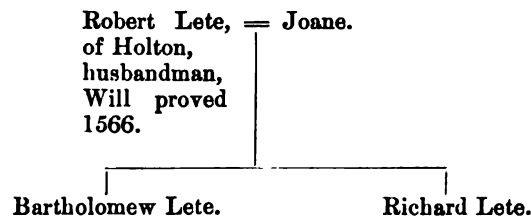
To my wife Joane, the profits of my farm, till Michaelmas, she paying to William Winter 20 shillings.

Also my household stuff, with remainder to my two sons Bartholomew Lete and Richard Lete.

Mentions my goddau. Ann Lete.

Witnesses :—Willm. Godbold and Richard Noone.

No county is mentioned. There are two Holtons, co. Suffolk, viz., Holton and Holton St. Mary. The other parishes of that name are in Oxfordshire and Somersetshire.



1581. Will of John Wydowes.

Mentions his son, and three daughters, Dorothy, Anne, and Barbara.

Lived in the parish of St. Botolphs, London.

Bequeathed the house he lived in to his wife for her life, rem. to his son: rem. to his daus: rem. to his brother Gyles Leete.

Bequest to Anne Leete my sister "in recompence of her great paynes aboute mee in my syckness."

John Leete, of Islington, co. Midd., yeoman. Will dated 11 Oct., 1623; proved 21 Feb., 1623-4, by Joane Leete, relict.

To be bur^d in Christian like manner.

Whereas there is due to my wife's son Thomas Horneby £21, given him by his father George Horneby by will, my will is that he shall have the same and £9 of my gift to make £30, to be paid

to him at the end of his apprenticeship. To my son Anthony Leete £30 at the age of 24. To my son John Leete £20 at the age of 24. To my son William Leete £20 at the age of 24. Whereas there is coming to me £88 by Richard Atkinson, my wife to add £12 thereto, to make up £100, to be delivered to my good friend Mr. John Cosford gent., and my brother John Leete for the best use of my four children. Residue to Joane my wife and make her executrix. Witnesses: John Bullet, Anthony Ash.

Commissary of Lond. f. 288.

Nicholas Leatt, citizen and ironmonger of London. Will dated 3 June, 1631; proved in the Prerog. Court of Cant., 28 June, 1631, by Richard Leatt and Huett Leatt, his sons.

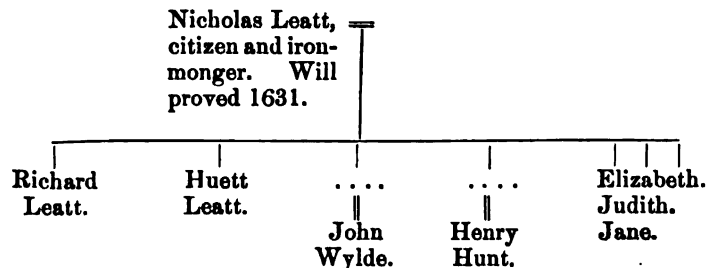
To my three daughters unmarried, Elizabeth, Judith and Jane, each 1000 marks.

To pay such legacies as he had previously acquainted his exors.

Residue to Richard and Huett Leatt my sons and exors.

My sons John Wilde and Henry Hunt with my cousin Ralphe Handson, overseers.

Witnesses:—John Wylde, Raph Handson, Henry Norreys, Nicholas Country, Thomas Farewell.



Richard Leatt, of St. Martin Outwich, London, merchant, then being sick in his bed in a chamber of his house in Threadneedle Street, London, made his nuncupative will between the 25th and

26th of June, 1634; proved, 19 June, 1635, by Huett Leatt, his brother.

He gave the house he lived in to his brother Huett Leatt, because he said his ancestors did dwell therein and because the said deceased and the said Huett Leatt were born therein.

He gave half of his estate to his wife, and half to his brother Huett Leatt, the said Huett paying to his three unmarried sisters, Elizabeth, Judith and Jane Leatt, £300.

Mentions £300 owing to him by Huett Leatt for his Algier business.

Huett Leatt to be sole executor.

No witnesses named.

Richard Leatt, =
of London,
Merchant, ob.
s.p. 1634. Will
proved, 1635.

Huett Leatt, of St. Helen's, Within Bishopsgate. Administration granted to Judith Leatt, the sister, 2 Dec., 1660.

Huett Leatt, of St. Helen's,
Bishopsgate, Lond. Adm.
1660.

Jane Leatt, of St. Mary Outwich, London. Administration granted to Elizabeth Leatt, the sister, 8 March, 1674-5.

Jane Leatt, ob. unmar.
Adm. 1674-5.

Judith Leatt, spinster, of St. Mary Outwich, London. Administration granted to Elizabeth Leatt, the sister, 8 March, 1674-5.

Judith Leatt, of St. Mary
Outwich, Lond., died
unmar. Adm. 1674-5.

William Leete, late of Bednall Green, co. Middlesex. Administration granted to Martha Leete, the relict, 29 June, 1658.

William Leete, = Martha.
of Bethnall
Green, Lond.
Adm. 1658.

Samuel Leete, of Daventree, co. Northampton, gent. Will dated 20 March, 1657 ; proved, 3 Dec., 1660.

To be buried in the chancel of Church of Daventree near where my late wife was buried.

To my brother Joshua Leete land at Badby which I lately purchased of him to be added to his farm again, charged 40/- a year for life to my sister Cowley, and 40/- a year for life to my sister Corner.

To Gregory Leete eldest son of my said brother Joshua Leete.

To Joshua Leete second son of my said brother Joshua Leete lands at Badby which I purchased of my brother Nathaniel Leete dec. and now in the occupation of Joseph Downninge.

To John Leete third son of my said brother Joshua Leete £100.

To Samuel Leete fourth son of my said brother Joshua Leete the cottage wherein I now inhabit and the land, in Daventree, a tenement &c. at Badby purchased of Rich. Chetwood Esq. and John Burton, John Rashall Woodward Samuel Smalbone, Edward Goodman and John Towe.

To Nathaniel Leete youngest son of my said brother Joshua Leete £50.

To Mary only dau. of my said brother Joshua Leete £100.

To the children of my brother Nathaniel Leete deceased £50 equally between them.

To William and Joseph Downninge the two sons of my sister Downninge dec. 20£ each — and to her dau. Mary the wife of Thomas Roberts.

To the children of my sister Cowley £50.

To the children of my sister Haywood dec. £50.

To my sister Garner £20.

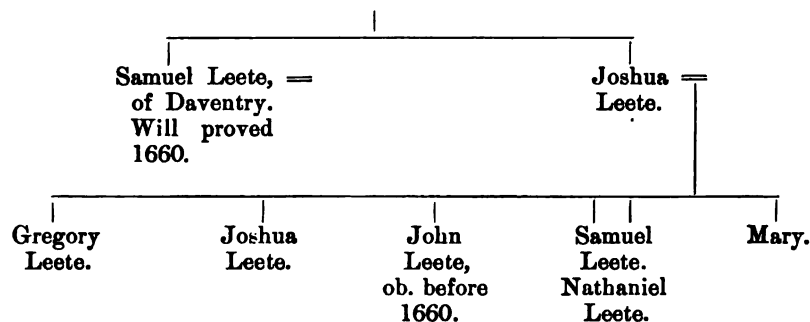
To Richard Raynsford Esq. and his dau. Mrs. Ann Raynsford 40/-.

Residue to my brother Joshua Leete and Samuel Leete my exor.

My good friends Richard Kingstley of Fansley Esq. Edward Farmer of Daventry and Richard Raynsford to be overseers.

Memo. Whereas John Leete one of the Legatees is since dec^d I give his legacy to Mary Leete and Nathaniel Leete between them.

Witnesses :—Thomas Seeley, John Powell.



Gregory Leete, of Badby, co. Northamp., yeoman. Will dated 1 Jan., 1625; proved in the Prerog. Court of Cant., 6 Feb., 1625, by Joshua Leete, the son and exor.

To my wife Elizabeth a house called Buries-house, &c.

To my son Joshua.

To my son Nathaniell.

To my son Samuel, £60.

To my son Nathaniell 100 marks.

To my dau. Hannah 100 marks.

To my dau. Elizabeth £60.

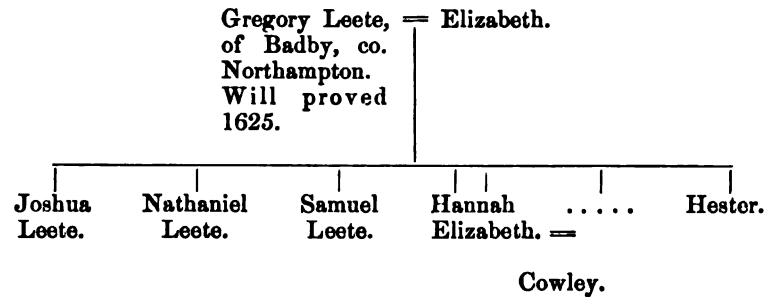
To my grandchild William Cowley my daus. son.

To my dau. Hester.

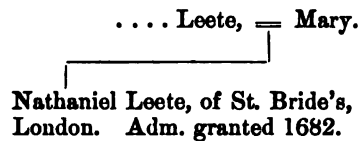
Residue to my son Joshua my sole exor.

My son Samuel overseer.

Witnesses:—Roger Nalle, Henry Smalborn.



Nathaniel Leete, of St. Bride's, London. Administration granted in the Prerog. Court of Cant. to Thomas Way, principal creditor—Mary Leete, the mother, renouncing—26 March, 1682.



Mary Leete, of Midloe, co. Hunts. Administration granted in the Prerog. Court of Cant. to John Leete, the husband, 26 May, 1693.

John Leete, = Mary.	
of Midloe,	Adm. 1693.
co. Hunts.	

Edward Leat, of Cherton, parish of Horsington, co. Somerset, husbandman. Will dated 1 Dec., 1653; proved in the Prerog. Court of Cant., , 1656, by Mary Leat, the relict and extrix.

To be buried in the ch. yd. of Horsington.

To my son Edward Leat after my wife's dec. my house known as Haggerson.

To my dau. Anne Stibbs the wife of Richard Stibbs after the dec. of my wife my lands at Batchpoole.

To Mary Stibbs the dau. of Rich^d. Stibbs.

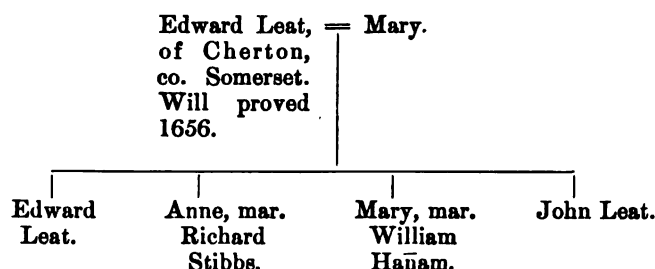
To Anne Stibbs the dau. of Richard Stibbs.

To my dau. Mary Hañam the wife of William Hañam, 10/-.

To my son John Leat if he be living 10/-.

Residue to Mary Leat my loving wife whom I make my whole executrix.

Witnesses:—Charles Mason, Robert Lillie, Thomas Cole.



John Bill, the King's printer, by his will dated 1631, left his niece, Merial Leate, £5 to buy her a ring (probably his brother Richard's dau.), and to his cousin, Richard Leate, £5 to buy him a ring, and appointed the s^d Richard Leate one of his executors. The will was not proved in the Prerog. Court. There is a copy of it in the Record Office among the State papers. This and the following probably refer to Richard, eldest son of Nicholas Leatt.

Humfrey Bill. Adm. granted to Richard Leate, husb. of Merriall Bill als. Leate, 1629.

Samuel Leet, of Daventree, co. Northamp. (died beyond the seas). Will dated 10 Sep., 1674; proved by Philip Style, curator to Samuel Leet, the son, 1682.

Being shortly going a voyage to sea. My Estate not settled by Deed of Trust of 26 Aug. 1674, to Robert Clerk, Esq., Richard Shuckburgh, gent., and Philip Style, gent., &c. Certain lands at

Badby settled to be sold for payment of my debts—the surplus to my children Samuel Leete, Richard Leete, and Christian Leete, equally.

To Edmond Clifford, Samuel Leete, Richard Leete, Mary Leete, Elizabeth Leete, and Christian Leete, 40/- each for rings.

To my wife Christian £10 for mourning, and I desire her to have especial care of my children.

Residue to Richard Leete and Christian Leete my dau. & to the survivor of them, my wife having the use thereof for her life.

My wife (she was a widow when the will was proved) to be my sole executrix.

Witnesses :—Rich. Howes, Robt. Ward, Tho. Robins, James Acourt.

Samuel Leete, = Christian.	
of Daventry.	
Will proved	
1682.	

Samuel Leete.	Richard Leete. Christian.

Israel Leet, of Little Eversden, blacksmith. Will proved 19 March, 1694.*

To Samuel Leet my son £5 in 3 years after my decease.

To my son Israell Leet 1 shilling.

To my son William Leet 1 shilling.

To my son Israell Leet my tenement orchard &c. in the occupation of W^m. Hewes : at 21, and to his heirs for ever.

To Israell Leet 4 acres of my copyhold land in Gt. Eversden being part of 8 acres lately purchased of William Padgett—to him and his heirs for ever.

To my son William Leet the other 4 acres at 21, and to his heirs for ever.

* Peterborough.

That Martha my wife shall enjoy my tenement and the 8 acres until they attain the age of 21.

Residue to Martha my wife.

Witnesses :—John Scott Sen., Jn^o Marshall, William Adam.

	Israel Leet, of Little Eversden.	=	Martha.
Samuel.	Israel.	William.	

CHAPTER V.



Miscellaneous.

Miscellaneous.

In a Cause in the Court of Requests, 37th Elizabeth (1595), it appears that Giles Leete,* then resident at Shelland in Suffolk, sued one Barnard Veasey, of Ely, and Ursula Veasey his mother, for the recovery of the title-deeds of his estate in the parishes of Kingston, Eversden and Toft, all in the county of Cambridge.

In his answer, Barnard Veasey admitted possession of the deeds, but alleged that William Leete, father, "as he supposes," of the plaintiff, had conveyed the estate for good consideration to Henry Veasey, defendant's father; that the said Henry had made a lease of the lands and tenements in question for 99 years for the better advancement and maintenance of defendant, his second son, and that defendant was bound to deliver up the deeds, after the expiration of the lease, to the right heirs of the said Henry Veasey, his father.

Abstracted from the Rolls of the Court of Requests
in the Record Office.

The decree made in this Cause has not been found.

A William Leete, a native of Suffolk, was admitted to Corp. Christi College, Cambridge, in 1603.

See Master's *History of C. C. C.*

Henry Leete, of Sidney College, A.B., 1704.

Cantabrigiensis Graduati, 1787.

ROYALIST COMPOSITION PAPERS.

These relate to the Delinquents, namely, those who took the

* Doubtless the same Giles Leete whose name occurs in connection with Kingston, co. Camb., in the Visitation of 1619. See page 8.

Royalist side in the Civil War between Charles I. and the Parliament, and of Papists and Recusants, and the terms upon which they were admitted to compound for their Sequestered Estates. The number of compounders may be gathered from the fact that the original orders and papers relating to them fill more than 250 volumes, chiefly large folios of upwards of 1,000 pages each.

The Royalist Composition Papers, preserved in the Record Office, supply some interesting particulars of the Leetes of Doddington, in Huntingdonshire.

The 5th of May, 1600, in a Cause depending in Chancery between Edward Shute and Ann Shute, plaintiffs, and Edmund Bendish, defendant, the Court was informed that the said Ann had married one Leet, a man of no value, without the consent of her friends, and no provision of living made for her if she should survive, and further, that she was contracted to another before, so if she should be divorced she were like to lose her portion. It was ordered that the defendant should pay Ann Shute's portion of the money left to her by her mother, £400, to Leet, he becoming first bound by Recognizance to the Court with good securities in the sum of £600, not only to repay the £400 in case any such pre-contract should fall out, but also to leave the said Ann for her relief if he died before her, either in living or yearly profit, the worth or value of £400.

On the 3rd of June, 1600, John Leet, of Doddington, gent., and Thomas Brudenell, of Doddington (afterwards Lord Brudenell), entered into a recognizance in accordance with the above order, and the money was paid.

About December, 1648, John Leet died, leaving his widow without living either in lands or money worth the value of £13, as deposed by her son John, who, in 1650, being then 35 years of age, petitioned the Commissioners of Sequestration on behalf of his mother to be allowed to extend the lands of Lord Brudenell,

then sequestered, in satisfaction of the recognizance of £600 then still undischarged, and the prayer of this petition appears to have been granted.

This John Leet, with another, was appointed Sequestrator for the co. of Huntingdon.

A lease, 4 March, 4 Elizabeth, to Flower Lete, of Kingston, in Cambridgeshire, widow, of a messuage called Sparrows, and 40 acres, in Melbourn, for 21 years, at 40/- per acre.

Cole's Coll. Add. MSS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE *Gentleman's Magazine* :—

Mar., 1795, Mr. Leete, surgeon, of Throgmorton Street, to one of the daus. of John Vane, esq., of Spitalfields.—Vol. 65, p. 254.

Died, on St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ambrose Leet, esq., a Sheriff's Peer of that City, 1798.—Vol. 68, p. 997.

Died suddenly, 8 Jan., 1799, Mr. Peter Leatt, plater, of St. Martin's Place.—Vol. 69, p. 82.

Died, 14 Feb., 1804, at Thrapston, Mr. Henry Leete, surgeon, who had been in practice 30 years; and on the 24th, Harriet, his eldest daughter.—Vol. 74, p. 279.

Died at Otterton, 1817, aged 82, Rev. Mr. Leatt.—Vol. 87, p. 643.

1818, Rev. John Leete, appointed to R. of Bletsoe, co. Bedford.—Vol. 88, p. 367.

Died Feb. 23, 1831, aged 25, Henry Harrobin, eldest son of Mr. Henry Leete, of Thrapston.—Vol. 101, p. 283.

Died 1832, the Rev. John Leete, rector of Bletsoe, co. Beds.

He was of Cath.hall, Camb., B.A., 1798, and was presented to Bletsoe by Lord St. John in 1818.—Vol. 102, p. 651.

Died, 25 Dec., 1836, at Brighton, aged 73, Robert Leete, esq., Secretary to the Catch Club and Musical Director of the Glee Club. He had been at the head of glee parties for half a century, and was much esteemed by his professional brethren, who a few years ago presented him with a handsome piece of plate.—Vol. 15, N. S., p. 213.

Died 22 Feb., 1840, at St. James's Place, Hampstead Road, aged 52, Mary, relict of C. Leete, esq., of Northumberland Street, Strand.—Vol. 13, N. S., p. 441.

Married 7 Jan., 1845, at Reading, the Rev. T. Troughton Leete, eldest son of the late Rev. John Leete, rector of Bletsoe, Bedfordshire, to Eliza Sarah, youngest dau. of the late Harry Harmood, esq., of Reading, and formerly of Wilmington House, Kent.—Vol. 25, N. S., p. 312.

Married 15 April, 1847, at East Budleigh, Devon, James Bastin, esq., of Tidwell Barton, to Sarah, fifth dau. of John Leatt, esq., of Budleigh Salterton.—Vol. 28, N. S., p. 79.

Married 11 Sep., 1849, at Thrapston, the Rev. William Lifton Wynne, of Stroud, Kent, eldest son of R. L. Wynne, esq., of Astrad, Denbigh, to Augusta Harriet, youngest dau. of Henry Lecte, esq.—Vol. 32, N. S., p. 530.

Married 24 July, 1850, at Cheddleton, Charles Lydiat Leete, esq., surgeon, of Wetley, Staffordshire, younger son of the late Rev. John Leete, rector of Bletsoe, Beds., to Fanny Wilson, fourth dau. of George Miles Mason, esq., of Wetley Abbey, Staffordshire.—Vol. 34, N. S., p. 426.

Died, at Clifton, 25 Mar., 1853, aged 74, Henry Leete, esq., of Thrapston.—Vol. 39, N. S., p. 564.

Died 7 Dec., 1853, in Eden Place, Old Kent Road, aged 72,

Nancy, relict of Henry Leete, esq., of Thrapston.—Vol. 41, N. S., p. 217.

Died at Westminster, 22 August, 1854, Miss Lydia Leete.—Vol. 42, N. S., p. 412.

Died 10 Nov., 1854, at Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, from a fall from his horse, Alfred Octavius, son of the late Henry Leete, esq., of Thrapston.—Vol. 43, N. S., p. 105.

Mar. 19 Oct., 1858, at Dublin, Henry Palk, M.D., only son of Alderman Palk, J.P., Southampton, to Georgina Jane Mary Rosalie, second dau. of Charles E. Leet, esq., M.D., of St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.—Vol. 5, 3rd S., p. 629.

Mar. 8 Sep., 1864, at Pailles, Mauritius, Charles Henry Leet, esq., Staff Assistant-Surgeon, son of C. H. Leet, esq., M.D., to Elizabeth, dau. of the Right Rev. Vincent W. Ryan, D.D., Lord Bishop of Mauritius.—Vol 17, 3rd S., p. 647.

At Bishopstowe, Pailles, Mauritius, 1 Sep., 1865, the wife of Dr. Charles Henry Leet, Staff Assist.-Surg., of a dau.—Vol. 19, p. 635.

ORTHOGRAPHY OF THE NAME.

The public functionaries, such as Priests, Parish Clerks, Assessors of Taxes, and the like, who in the days of old had occasion to register a surname, were guided in their selection of consonants and vowels by the sound of the name which they had to record.

Chaucer's heroes have come down to us with a dozen various styles of spelling their cognomens.

Shakespeare flourished at a time when his name could be written by himself and his contemporaries in many different ways.

But a century before the days of Chaucer, and long after Shakespeare had quitted this world's stage, the spelling of the simple monosyllabic name of Leete appears to have exercised the ingenuity of those whose business it

was to record it; and those descendants from the common stock who are of opinion that their chosen orthography is the only correct one will do well to look into these pages and see what multifarious combinations of letters were made use of in recording our patronymic.

The earliest record that we have yet discovered is in *Pedes Finium* (Public Record Office). Therein it says:—"In the 10th King John (1209) Gerard or Gervasius Letie or Lete held lands in Morden, County Cambridge."

We next find that in 1326 Robertus filius Lete, of Toft, Cambs, was assessed to a subsidy 1st Edward III. Then we find that in the earliest official reference made to the Arms the record is—"To — Lete, of County Suffolk."

In later times (*vide* page 103) the Letes or Leetes of Suffolk laid claim to the ancient estates of Eversden, Toft and Kingston, and they likewise re-appear in the records of Morden or Gilden Morden (*vide* pedigree).

It appears to me to be highly probable that the John Leete who stands at the head of the pedigree wrote his name Lete, for it is thus given several times in the records of the assessments made on him in the reign of Henry VIII.

We see also that when his son William died in 1560, administration was granted to his widow as Flower Lete, and next in succession comes William's son Simeon, who wrote his name Lete.

For this we have the evidence of his own signature, copy of which is given among the facsimiles (page 111). We have, however, equally strong proof that at this period of time the members of the same family wrote the name Leete as well as Lete. Thus the will of John's second son, Edmund, who died in 1550, shows the name as Leete; and later on, when the Heralds made their visitations to Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in 1612 and 1619, we find two other grandsons of John, Gyles of Kingston, and John of Bury St. Edmunds, made an official record of their names as Leete.

In like manner the visitations of Huntingdonshire in 1613 and 1684 bear the signature Leete.

On the other hand there is an abundance of evidence in these pages to show that numerous branches of the family were accustomed to spell their name as Leet, without the final *e*. The earliest record we have herein given of that mode of orthography is the will of John Leet, citizen of London, 1440.

Oddly enough, the official extract I have of the marriage at Royston, in 1768, of my great-grandfather Robert, shows Leet; but I have found no instance that his son Simeon, my grandfather, spelled his name without the final vowel.

The name of Leet, without the final *e*, has been rendered familiar to the eye and ear of the world by the members of one of the old branches of the English Leets, who for more than two centuries have been located in Ireland.

This family has distinguished itself in the army, the navy, the Church, and in the medical profession.

I had once the honour to pay a visit to Dr. Charles Leet, of Dublin, and was gratified to see that his family kept alive its ancient tradition of having descended from the Leets, or Leetes, of Cambridgeshire, and that the Eversden coat of arms is used by them.

I was told that with regard to the first introduction of the family into Ireland there is reason to believe they came over with Cromwell, and were nearly allied to Colonel Jones, who held the command of Cromwell's army in Dublin, and who subsequently was appointed Governor of that City.—*Note by J. L.*

ETYMOLOGY OF THE NAME.

I cannot leave the subject of the Orthography of the Name without making reference to the question of the suggested Etymology of the patronymic Leete.

By many it has been supposed that the name was originally Light, and in its present form is a corruption of that word. That idea presupposes the family to be of Saxon origin. This supposition has been favoured by the circumstance that the Emblems of Light are used in the Coat of Arms.

When, however, we reflect upon the antiquity of the name in its various forms of Letie, Lete, Lety, etc., and note that the possessors of these were men whose Christian prefixes are Gerard or Gervasius, Robert, and Matthew, we are led to the conclusion that the use of such baptismal names, within a century or two after the Conquest, indicate a Norman rather than a Saxon origin of the Surname.

There are, moreover, four names which have enjoyed a marked preference through five centuries. They are—Robert, Simeon, John, and William.

Those of Robert and Simeon existed in my family down to the time of my late uncles, and that of Simeon survives in undiminished favour in the Gilden Morden branch of our race (*vide* Pedigree).—*Note by J. L.*

THE FAMILY ARMS.

Had we been able to trace the origin of the Arms, much that remains still a mystery might have been explained. The earliest mention we possess of them is merely a confirmation of a former grant of the patent.

The charge upon the Shield, two coils of matches (*mèches*) for firing cannon, may have had its origin in an invention connected with field ordnance which elicited Royal favour.

The Ducal Crown may be the only surviving memorial of a title once owned by the Letes, or it may have been used as emblematic of victory.

The Crest with its antique lamp with three branches all a-blaze is skilfully suggestive of the family name, for in the eastern and northern counties of England "light" is called, in the dialect of the people, *leet*.

The Knight accoutred for battle or the tournament, encased in armour and casque, concealing his form and features, sought by means of the emblazonments on his shield and his crest to give a clue to his name, and thus enable his friends to distinguish him in the field.

No motto or device has been recorded in connection with the Arms, but divers branches of the family have adopted various mottoes which they employ in conjunction with the Arms.—*Note by J. L.*

Reproductions of Signatures: Leete Family.

September 1606

Simon Leete

Christmase

1609

the 27th of September

Barth. Leete } Jun. Wardon

Signature of Governor Leete's father, from Camden's Visitation of Hunts, 1613.

Cott. MS., Julius F. viii.

John Leete

Signature of the Governor's brother, from Royalist Composition Papers.

State Papers—Record Office.

John Leete

March: 25: 1635

William Leete

LONDON :
WERTHEIMER, LEA & CO., PRINTERS.
CIRCUS PLACE, LONDON WALL.

